

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

Item number: 8/2/23

23 Infantry Brigade

October 1942

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42 To 31 Oct 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
In the Field	1 Oct	AM	Maj DAVIES returned by air from LHQ Regtl Comds School. GOC accompanied by Brig I.N. DOUGHERTY, Maj DAVIES and Lieut DRIVER, observed exercise by 7 Bn to practice encircling movement SOUTHPORT RD Area.	Request for moving MT from Vehicle Harbour See appx "A".
		PM	Lt-Col McCARTY visited Brigadier Dougherty and remained night at this HQ.	
	2 Oct		Brig DOUGHERTY visited Force HQ to dine with GOC and attend conference on recent Force Exercise.	
	3 Oct	AM	Conference of unit Comds held to discuss recent Force Exercise and Bde programme of training.	RO issued Appx "B" Int Summary No 105
		PM	Brig DOUGHERTY and Lieut PROSSOR visited 2/4 Pnr Bn and then WINNELLIE School where Brigadier delivered lecture on Greek Campaign to No 4 Section Leaders Course. Maj DAVIES and Lieut ROSE visited Force HQ.	appx "C"
	4 Oct	AM	Brig DOUGHERTY visited and lunched with Brig MARTIN at HQ 19 Bde.	Amended Trg Programme to 5 Dec Appx "D"
		PM	Brig DOUGHERTY accompanied by Lt-Col WINNING, CO 2/8 Inf Bn, looked at country in ADELAIDE RIVER Area.	
	5 Oct	AM	Brig DOUGHERTY with Lieut PROSSOR, viewed the trg in war weapons at 7 Inf Bn. Lunch arrangements of one Coy was inspected.	
		PM	Brig DOUGHERTY and Maj DAVIES, observed the "War Weapons Week" trg by 19 MG Bn.	
	6 Oct	AM	Brig DOUGHERTY, with Maj DAVIES visited 19 MG Bn and viewed War Weapons Week" trg.	
		PM	The GOC, Major General STEVENS, accompanied by Brig DOUGHERTY and Lieut PROSSOR, viewed the trg carried out by 19 MG Bn.	

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit..... Date and Time.—From..... To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	6 Oct	PM	At 1815 hrs Major LOUGHRAN, G II(O), Force HQ, delivered a lecture on DISCIPLINE to officers of Bde Gp at Bde HQ.	
	7 Oct	AM	Brig DOUGHERTY, with Lieut DRIVER, visited 2/4 Pnr Bn in Frt Area, and spent morning with Lt-Col McCARTY. In afternoon calls were made on FRT COMD and on Commodore POPE.	
		PM	Major Davies accompanied Major McCARTHY G ii(O), to view "War Weapons Week" trg at 8 Aust Inf Bn.	
	8 Oct		Brig DOUGHERTY lunched with GOC, Major General STEVENS, at Adv HQ, before lunch attending conference on Force Exercise No 5, and a further conference after lunch on the proposed Coy Comds Course, and Bn training generally. At 1930 hrs Brig DOUGHERTY addressed 8 Inf Bn prior to their moving out on a night exercise involving night march and occupation of posn.	
	9 Oct	AM	At 0245 hrs Brig DOUGHERTY, Maj DAVIES, Lieut DRIVER, Lieut ROSE, Lieut PROSSOR, and Capt REDWOOD moved out to observe the night exercise by 8 Inf Bn which terminated at 0730 hrs. Brig DOUGHERTY set out to make a recce of STAPLETON and DALY RIVER Area, returning to HQ at 1930 hours.	Comments on 8 Bn Exercise Appx "E"
		PM	During the evening a cloth map exercise was conducted at Bde HQ for offrs of the HQ by Lieut DRIVER - subject "Patrols"	
	10 Oct	AM	Brig DOUGHERTY and Major DAVIES viewed "War Weapons Week" trg at 7 Inf Bn.	RO issued Appx "F" Int Summary No 106 Appx "G"
		PM	Brig DOUGHERTY and Lieut DRIVER visited 8 Inf Bn and observed the "War Weapons Week" trg.	Trg Programme See Appx "H"
	11 Oct			Letter to HQ NT Force re supplies for Bn in the Fortress. See Appx "I"
	12 Oct		Hy rain commenced at 1700 hrs and stopped at 1815 hrs, In connection with Force Exercise No 5 MT started to move at	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	12 Oct		1830 hrs to BYNOE BAY ROAD via DARWIN RIVER STA but track was impassable 2½ mls inside main NORTH - SOUTH road.	See appx "J"
			Further movement was halted and move changed to BYNOE BAY road via SOUTHPORT RD STA, with recce party well ahead. The convoys were unable to penetrate by this route and at 2300 hrs instns were received from NT Force cancelling the exercise. Units returned to their normal camp areas and were quartered by 0100 hrs 13 Oct.	Letter to NT Force re Tyres - Mobile Retreading Plant See Appx "K"
	13 Oct		Light rain fell from 1810 hrs until approx 2100 hrs. Brig DOUGHERTY conducted a signal exercise between 2000 and 2300 hrs for K Sec Sigs to test range of 101 sets and visibility of xxx VEREY LIGHTS. No results were forthcoming as range of 10 mls was too great. Lieut N.F. PROSSOR was promoted CAPT as per NT Force Orders at date.	
	14 Oct		Hy rain fell between 1700 and 1815 hrs	(Letter to NT Force re use of Horses by Inf Bns.
	15 Oct		TEWT No 4 for offr and potential offr of 8 Inf Bn was conducted by Lieut DRIVER	(See Appx "L" See Appx "M"
			Brig DOUGHERTY attended and addressed participants at its conclusion. Brig DOUGHERTY visited Adv HQ NT Force.	Amended Trg Programme to 5 Dec Appx "N"
	16 Oct	A M	Experiments from 1030 to 1330 hrs were conducted by Maj DAVIES at STRAUSS FIELD, with personnel from K Sec Sigs and 12 Sqn RAAF in comms ground to air, and air to ground - using LUCAS and AIDIS lamps and 108 sets. One plane piloted by F/O TAYLOR was used	See Appx "N(1)"
		P M	Brig DOUGHERTY and Maj DAVIES viewed coy exercises of 7 Bn which incorporated explosives to simulate actual fire.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	16 Oct	PM	Brig DOUGHERTY with BGS and other Bde Comds looked over the ground for the forthcoming Force Exercise.	
			At 1730 Lieut CAMPBELL of 23 Fd Coy lectured at 7 Bn to offrs of Bde Gp on BOOBY TRAPS.	
			At night Lieut POWELL conducted a cloth model exercise for offrs of Bde HQ on "MT move of a bde gp by road" Light rain fell from 2100 to 2130 hrs.	
	17 Oct	AM	Brig DOUGHERTY and Maj DAVIES visited 8 Bn and viewed coy exercises incorporating use of explosives to simulate arty fire.	Units to conduct exercise for MT personnel See Appx "O"
		PM	Brig DOUGHERTY and Capt BROWN visited 8 Bn and saw further coy exercises incorporating simulation of arty fire by explosives use of	RO issued Appx "P" Trg Programme to 24 Oct
			Brig DOUGHERTY visited 2/4 Pnr Bn at Frt Comd, spent the night with Lt-Col McCARTY and returned to Bde HQ the following morning.	See Appx "Q" Int Summary No 107 See Appx "R"
	18 Oct	AM	Bishop RILEY, Chaplain General to the Forces visited Bde HQ and lunched with the Bde Comd and offrs.	
		PM	At 1700 hrs a conference of unit COs took place at Bde HQ to discuss arrangements for Force Exercise No 5.	
			Brig DOUGHERTY was called to NT Force HQ at 1715 hrs and received orders for his immediate transfer from his present comd to an appointment in NEW GUINEA Force. At 2100 hrs all unit COs gathered to farewell Brig DOUGHERTY at an informal function. Lt-Col K.H. MONTGOMERY, CO 8 Bn appointed to Adm Comd temporarily pending arrival Brig DOUGHERTY's successor.	
	19 Oct		NT Force Exercise No 5 commenced at 1140 hrs. Brig DOUGHERTY left BATCHELOR by air at 1415 hrs for NEW GUINEA via BRISBANE.	Appx "S"

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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(Erase heading not required).

Unit.....


Date and Time.—From..... To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 Oct		Lieut Driver left to attend Staff College at RMC, DUNTROON.	
	22 Oct		NT Force Exercise No 5 concluded.	
	23 Oct.	PM	Maj DAVIES accompanied by Lieut ROSE made a recce of the ground for Bde Exercise 6 with 42 Fd Bty Comd. At 1730 hrs a conference was held at 23 Bde HQ for COs and umpires taking part in 23 Bde Exercise 6.	
	24 Oct		23 Bde Trg Exercise No 6 was conducted	Appx "T" RO issued Appx "U"
	25 Oct	PM	Offrs of 23 Bde HQ played a cricket match against offrs of 2/12 Fd Amb. At night Capt GRIMSHAW conducted a discussion among offrs of 23 Bde HQ on the establishment of Bde B Ech area.	Trg Programme to 31 Oct See Appx "V"
			Lieut WILD returned from School of Camouflage, SYDNEY.	
	26 Oct	AM	Capt PROSSOR attended NT Force HQ to discuss and recce areas suitable for demonstration by RAAF of ground strafing and dive bombing. Adm Comd and Major DAVIES visited DARWIN area and inspected MINDIL BEACH and LEE PT BEACH, MINDIL BEACH was selected as suitable for TEWT on "Opposition to a Landing" to be carried out by students of No 1 Coy Comds Course, NT Force School.	
	28 Oct		A/Bde Comd and Maj DAVIES made a recce of COOMALIE CK area for TEWT for students of No 1 Coy Comds Course dealing with "Attack" and "Withdrawal".	
	29 Oct		Advice was received from HQ NT Force that Brig POTTS, to replace Brig DOUGHERTY, had arrived at NT Force in the late afternoon.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit ----- Date and Time.—From ----- To -----

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	31 Oct		officers of 23 Aust Inf Bde	
			A/Bde Comd Lt-Col K.H. MONTGOMERY	
			BM Major T.F. DAVIES	
			SC Capt H.V. BROWN	
			BM(L) Lieut A.R. DRIVER	Absent at RMC, DUNTROON
			IO Lieut R.T.M. ROSE	
			TO Capt J.W. REDWOOD	
			LO (1) Capt N.F. PROSSOR	
			LO (2) Lieut W.H. WILD	
			BASCO Lieut L.G. POWELL	
			Amenities Offr Lieut A.J. FITZGERALD	
			Hygiene Offr Lieut N.V. CASEY	
			Education Offr Lieut K. KILLEY	
			OC K Sec Sigs 8 Div Capt K.W. TEASDALE	
			2 i/c " " " Lieut C.R.L. CAYSER.	
				 Major BM 23 Aust Inf Bde, AIF.

APPX A

2791/23/21

23 Aust Inf Bde
28 Sep 42

HQ NT FORCE

VEHICLE HARBOUR

It is requested, concerning our vehicles in the vehicle harbour, that either:-

(a) 23 Bde be allowed to bring the vehicles into Brigade Area where better supervision can be given. (It is pointed out that we have at present approximately only twenty(20) vehicles in the harbour. There is an officer in charge of them, and he has mechanics, but we cannot exercise constant and satisfactory supervision from here. It takes two days to get in communication from or to the harbour, except when personal visits are made).

(b) The vehicles be transferred to a Vehicle Reception Park.

I request this as I do not consider it equitable for CO's to be held responsible for the maintenance of the vehicles under the conditions which exist at present, (and at present they are held responsible). Vehicles are being sent out on tasks very often, sometimes being temporarily transferred to other units (who use their own drivers) and then the vehicles are re-transferred back to the harbour and the CO has again to assume responsibility.

It is requested that this letter be referred to "G" Branch, it is really confirmation of a discussion already held with that Branch.

W. Donohue, Brigadier
Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde A I F

The information contained in this document is not to be communicated either directly or indirectly, to the press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's Services.

Serial No 12
Nos 69 - 74

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

by
BRIGADIER I.N. DOUGHERTY DSO
Cmd 23 Aust Inf Bde AIF

In the Field
3 Oct 42

69. <u>DUTY OFFICERS</u>	Saturday	3 Oct 42	Capt	K.W. TEASDALE
	Sunday	4 Oct 42	Lieut	A.J. FITZGERALD
	Monday	5 Oct 42	Lieut	R.T.M. ROSE
	Tuesday	6 Oct 42	Lieut	N.F. PROSSOR
	Wednesday	7 Oct 42	Lieut	C.R.L. CAYSER
	Thursday	8 Oct 42	Lieut	L.G. POWELL
	Friday	9 Oct 42	Capt	K.W. TEASDALE.

70. MISUSE OF AMN From time to time instns have been issued by direction of GOC NT Force that amn is not to be expended in shooting game etc. Already two men have lost their lives and one man has been gravely injured due to indiscriminate firing or shooting expeditions. Any breach of this instn will be viewed with the utmost gravity and stern disciplinary measures will be taken against any offenders. (1)

71. ABORIGINAL RESERVES The following areas are aboriginal reserves and are out of bounds to all ranks.
(a) HOWARD SPRINGS Area, immediately to East of HOWARD SPRINGS CREEK (Map Ref DARWIN 4 miles to 1 inch, 174057). This area is approached by the road to Rd Butchery, turning off at the 18 mile peg.
(b) Mt BUNDY STOCKYARD Area, within 1 1/2 miles of the stockyard (Map Ref PINE CREEK, 4 miles to 1 inch 040082). This area is approached by track off main rd at 81 mile peg.

72. OUT OF BOUNDS The following areas are out of bounds to all ranks not on duty.
(a) KOOLPINYAH Slaughter Yards.
(b) B.I.P.O.D. lines at 22 mile peg.

73. ROUTINE The following times will be observed as from 27 Sep 42 :-

Reveille	0730 hrs	(Sunday 0800 hrs)
Breakfast	0830 hrs	" " 0845 "
Lunch	1330 "	" " "
Dinner	1830 "	" " "
Lights out	2315 "	" " "

74. CLOTHING RATION COUPONS GRO 222 para 20 is promulgated hereunder for information of all ranks.
Purchase of Rationed Articles of Clothing - Instruction to Army Personnel. -
(a) Procedure when buying rationed articles of clothing in person.
(i) When buying rationed articles of clothing at canteens or retail stores, coupons will be surrendered in accordance with the civilian scale published by the Ration Commission.

NO
IN BELTA LEVSE GROSE

TELEPHONE

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 105

ISSUED BY 23 AUST INF BDE AIF

War Diary
APPX C

Compiled from information received between 2100 hrs 27 Sep and 2100 hrs
3 Oct 42.

NOTE: Information contained herein will be passed on to all ranks.

1. AUST NEW GUINEA

(a) LAE - SALAMAUA - MUBO - WAU

No further advances are reported from this area, and the Japanese thrust towards WAU through MUBO appears to have been cancelled, at least, for the present.

The two main factors contributing to this state are thought to be:-

- (i) Excessive wet conditions due to commencement of NW season, thus hampering movement of supplies.
- (ii) Lack of carriers. The shortage may be due to desertions caused by continuous Allied bombing and strafing in the SALAMAUA area.

As a result of the continued and unrestricted presence of Allied patrols in the MARKHAM VALLEY Area it is now reported that natives are once more friendly to our tps.

Attempts to date by Jap tps to penetrate the MARKHAM VALLEY further than Heath's Plantation have been abortive, and the presence of Japs at this outpost appears to be tied up with the defence scheme of LAE Aerodrome.

28 Sep: At 1800 hrs Allied A/C bombed LAE AERODROME. Bombs were seen to fall on the SE runway.

29 Sep: 1048 hrs - Allied A/C bombed SALAMAUA AERODROME but results were not observed.

2 Oct: 0645 hrs - Allied A/C strafed bldgs in SALAMAUA and the Jap active W/T Sta at KALA POINT was left burning.

The main SALAMAUA hangar is reported to be dilapidated and empty.

(b) BUNA - KOKODA - MORESEBY

By 27 Sep fwd elements of Allied tps had penetrated the barricade built by Japanese across the main track NORTH of IORIBAIWA BRIDGE, and were in contact with a fwd Jap post. The action was assisted by arty G.F. fire which damaged the barricade, while other Allied fwd tps with an outflanking movement captured the ridge on the 28 Sep, and forced the enemy to withdraw northwards. The attack took place in heavy rainstorms and bad visibility, which made our arty fire more effective by completely undermining the Jap morale.

A large quantity of enemy store eqpt was secured and the Allied attacking force consolidated the new posn.

Allied fwd detachments immediately push on in the rear of the Jap tps and on the 29 Sep these detachments were reinforced before reaching NAURO.

As a consequence of the Allied offensive action in capturing IORIBAIWA RIDGE the Japs have reduced their number of fwd posns and are using well camouflaged weapon pits similar to our slit trenches.

These fwd posns are connected by a sig wire to the Jap HQ in order that a night alarm may be given if necessary.

At 1030 hrs 30 Sep fwd Allied forces had seized NAURO, still without having contacted the main Jap forces, and pushed on. One prisoner only was taken but many documents, eqpt and identity discs were captured, indicated a hurried withdrawal by the enemy.

Our fwd elements pressed fwd NORTH of NAURO on 1 Oct, and, late in the afternoon, were just SOUTH of MENARI. Up to this time no contact with the main Jap force had been made.

Continuous and heavy rain is reported to be hampering ops, making tracks along ridges and razor-backs dangerous and slippery, and increasing the difficulty of supplies to fwd tps.

Allied A/C have assisted the Allied offensive wherever weather has permitted and are still maintaining aerial supremacy.

Enemy camps, store dumps, tp concentrations and pack trains along the narrow tracks have been subjected to almost continuous bombing and strafing, and, despite rain, a large fire was started amongst a gp of huts WEST of MENARI, on 2 Oct.

Aerial photographs taken over EFOGI - KAGI - MYOLA LAKE area show many huts and dumps and well worn and muddy tracks, indicating the presence here of the main Jap force.

Allied A/C continue to hammer at Jap bases and dumps and dromes in the BUNA - KOKODA area and on 2 Oct the wire suspension bridge over the KUMUSI River at WAIROPI was again left unserviceable.

This is the only bridge over the KUMUSI, which, at this time of the year, is usually a raging torrent, approx 50 yds wide, and is therefore of strategical importance to the Jap forces.

(c) MILNE BAY

Little information comes from the MILNE BAY area, and odd parties of Jap tps are still being sought after and destroyed.

On 27 Sep one Allied patrol killed two Japs at LAROIO Village (5 miles E. ST of WADAU), and on 30 Sep a party of 12 Japs were encountered 5 miles NW of LILTHOA Village. 5 enemy, including 1 offr, were killed.

On 26 Sep Allied A/C bombed a 500-ton enemy tpt approx 52 miles ESE of KITAVA Island and scored direct hits. The vessel was completely gutted and only 4 survivors were observed in a small boat near the wreck.

The following is an extract only from a report written by an XO at PORT MORESBY on 29 Aug regarding the tactics carried out by Japanese A/C when fired upon by our AA guns during the recent MILNE BAY ops. Similar tactics may be encountered here:-

When AA opened fire on the Japanese A/C two of the dive-bombers immediately went into a deliberate spin, out of which they pulled when at tree top height. Zeros then attempted to ground strafe, the leader making a low run and setting on fire an A/C which had crashed. The later Zeros were kept higher by AA, but as they dived away, emitted dense black smoke, giving the impression of being shot down. All on the ground agreed that AA had obtained two kills, but another pilot, from a nearby hill, saw both these zeros flying away just above the tops of the trees, indicating that either smoke cartridges were used or that it is characteristic of this A/C to smoke profusely when extra boost is applied. It is suggested that this feature should be watched in assessing claims for Zeros which dive away smoking.

(d) NEW BRITAIN

At 0300 hrs 25 Sep Allied A/C attacked shipping in RABAUH Harbour, scoring possible hits on 2 unidentified vessels.

27 Sep - Allied A/C again attacked shipping in RABAUH Harbour at 0522 hrs and registered 1 direct hit and 1 near miss on the largest cargo vessel at anchor in the centre of SIMPSONS Harbour. The vessel was left burning.

2. BRITISH AND MANDATED SOLOMONS

There is no evidence yet that the new strip drome at KIHILI (in BUIN sub district of BOUGAINVILLE Island) is in use. The progress of the work has been hampered considerably by Allied A/C attacks, and on 27 Sep demolition bombs were dropped on the runway.

Allied tps are consolidating and holding recently gained posns, and activity is mainly confined to aerial combat.

At 1245 hrs (local time) on 28 Sep, 25 enemy bombers, escorted by 18 Zeros attacked Allied gnd posns on GUADALCANAL.

Allied interceptor planes engaged the enemy formation and shot down 23 bombers and one fighter. Allied losses were NIL.

On 29 Sep Allied A/C attacked an enemy naval adv force WEST of the SHORTLAND Is (capital is PAISI). NIL hits were observed, but 8 ZEROS which attempted interception were shot down with a further probability of others.

3. GILBERT AND ELLIS Is GROUP

Meeting with no opposition, Jap tps are steadily occupying all islands in this group.

The following is a diary of events in this group:-

2 Sep: Japs occupied ABEMAMA Is

3 Sep: " " TARAWA "

24 Sep: " " MANIANA "

25 Sep: Believing the Island of BERU to be occupied by Allied tps, 3 Jap warships shelled several villages.

27 Sep: Japs occupied TAMANA Is

27 Sep: " " KURIA Is

4. ALEUTIAN IS

During the night 27/28 Sep Allied A/C attacked enemy shipping and shore installations at KISKA Is.

One submarine is believed to have been hit and sunk and one tpt was hit and left sinking. Near misses were reported on 1 tpt and 1 destroyer at a posn 112 miles WEST by NORTH KISKA Harbour and also possible damage by bombing to a freighter near BULDIR Is.

28 Sep: Allied A/C bombed ATTULA Is, starting fires. No opposition was encountered.

DISTRIBUTION 'B'

Appx D

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

23 Aust Inf Bde
4 Oct 42.

5236-12-1

AMENDMENTS TO TRG PROGRAMME FOR
PERIOD ENDING 5 DEC 42

1. The last three days of week ending 17 Oct will be utilized by bns to complete camp construction, and to carry out, for each coy, the exercise of occupation of posn by day, the posn being subjected to enemy arty fire and assault as per conference of COs on 3 Oct.
2. Estimate of explosives required for this exercise will be submitted direct to OC 23 Fd Coy by 1800 hrs Wed 7 Oct. Details of the exercise, and the tactical scheme, will be submitted to Bde HQ by 1800 hrs Fri 9 Oct.
3. The coy occupation of posn by night vide Force Trg Instn No 22 para 5 (b) will be transferred to the trg for the week, ended 31 Oct.
4. During the WAR WEAPONS WEEK, COs will ensure that personnel keep fit, as the special exercise during the following week will be a hard test of physical and mental fitness. Special attention will be devoted to care of the feet.

Major.
BM 23 Aust Inf Bde AIF.

DISTRIBUTION

- 7 Aust Inf Bn
- 8 Aust Inf Bn
- 19 Aust MG Bn
- Bde Comd
- BM
- SC
- War Diary 2 ✓
- File.

NO.
IN BENTLEY STREET CODES

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - SOUTHERN COMMAND

TELEPHONE

COMMENTS ON 8 Bn EXERCISE - 9 OCT 42A CoyLieut Prossor

Move out good, occupation satisfactory.
 Some personnel, towards end of stand to period tended to relax
 silence and discipline.
 No rd block put in posn. (fwd coy)
 Water discipline - fair only.
 Dispositions - good.

B CoyLieut Rose

Movement - good.
 Occupation - drill of occupation good, but detailed disposition
 of two pls very poor in regard to perimeter. Affected somewhat
 by arrival of carriers in Coy area after Coy had taken up
 original posn, thus necessitating some adjustment.
 Water discipline - good.

C Coy -Lieut Driver

Night discipline and silence very good for first half of march,
 then very bad after turn off from MANTON RIVER track.
 Occupation - drill good, but dispositions too dispersed, even
 for daylight.
 Water discipline - fair to good.
 Constructed good rd block (rear coy).

D CoyLieut Bennett

Movement - good except for talking at concluding stage.
 Occupation - drill good, but slight adjustment necessary, and was
 made, at first light. After first light, too much talking and
 noise.
 This coy posted sentries to cover occupation of posn.
 Water discipline - good.

TransportCapt Redwood

(a) Recommended that all Stop lights be disconnected.
 (b) All unit A Ech tpt incl Carriers (? M/C) to move by bounds
 in rear of rearmost tps of marching coln at night.
 (c) Guides to lead vehs into harbour areas - require white mark
 on back so that veh can easily follow.
 No attempt to disperse vehs, at first light, from night posns.
 Interval considered to be too close between vehs.
 Advance given away by noise of carriers and M/Cs.

SigsCapt Teasdale

Comms during move by 108 sets were good.
 108 used also in posn. No attempt to lay line.

A/TkMajor Strutt

Work satisfactory. One det poen at stand to. Fault corrected by BC.

General

No digging was carried out as Coys were in posn only 15 minutes
 before stand to.
 Consider that some digging should have been attempted.
 No patrols were ordered by Bn, and no coy took any action to
 provide patrols, even for local protection.
 No sentries ordered by Coys to cover occupation, nor did Pls
 post any.
 Weakness in strength of Coys may have accounted for this neglect.

8 Aust Inf Bn
 War Diary (2)

*For 8 Aust Inf Bn
 17.10.42*

Information contained in this document is not to be communicated either directly or indirectly to the press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's Services.

Serial No 13
Paras 75 - 78

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

by

BRIGADIER I.N. DOUGHERTY DSO
Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde AIF

In the Field
10 Oct 42

-
75. DUTY OFFICERS
- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Saturday | 10 Oct 42 | Lieut A.J. FITZGERALD |
| Sunday | 11 Oct 42 | Lieut R.T.M. ROSE |
| Monday | 12 Oct 42 | Lieut N.F. PROSSOR |
| Tuesday | 13 Oct 42 | Lieut G.R.L. CAYSER |
| Wednesday | 14 Oct 42 | Lieut L.G. POWELL |
| Thursday | 15 Oct 42 | Lieut A.R. DRIVER |
| Friday | 16 Oct 42 | Capt K.W. TEASDALE |
76. PROHIBITED AREAS - MANTON DAM
- Attention of all ranks is drawn to the fact that MANTON POWER HOUSE and DAM and its Environs are out of bounds to all ranks. Severe disciplinary action will be taken against any person contravening this order.
77. DAMAGE TO TENTAGE
- Provision of adequate tentage is a drain on Australia's resources. All care must therefore be taken to ensure that no tents are damaged or lost through negligence. More care must be taken in the erection of tents, and more thought given to the most suitable place for erection having regard to prevailing winds and storms. Where bush timber is used for poles, etc, care must be taken to ensure that rough timber does not tear the canvas. Unless the proportion of tentage rendered U/S is reduced within this comd it will be impossible to guarantee adequate cover for all units.
78. NOMENCLATURE OF THE FORCES
- To ensure standardised usage and interpretation, the following definitions are promulgated :--

The expression "Australian Military Forces" means the whole of the military forces of the Commonwealth of Australia. It therefore includes the Australian Imperial Force.

The expression "Citizen Military Forces" means the military forces of the Commonwealth of Australia, other than the Australian Imperial Force and the Permanent Military Forces. It includes the Volunteer Defence Corps.
 - (a) The following abbreviations are authorised :--

A.M.F. for Australian Military Forces
A.I.F. for Australian Imperial Force
P.M.F. for Permanent Military Forces
C.M.F. for Citizen Military Forces.

(b) It is to be particularly noted that "C.M.F." is not an abbreviation for "Commonwealth Military Forces". Use of the expression "Commonwealth Military Forces" will be avoided.

Appx G
War Diary

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY No. 106

ISSUED BY 23 AUST INF BDE A I F

Compiled from information received between 2100 hrs 3 Oct 42 and 2200hrs 10 Oct 42.

NOTE: Information contained herein will be passed on to all ranks.

1. DARWIN AREA

(a) GVN AIR ACTIVITY

6 Oct Three BOMBERS made a run on GVN in particular the town and port of BOELA. The plane appeared to drop bombs and activity or enemy shipping activity was seen. Bombs were dropped near oil tanks and it is considered that several were damaged. The last run over BOELA was on 13 Jul when it was reported that the oil tanks and buildings had been destroyed since the evacuation of the town. In view of the above it would appear that JAPANESE efforts to repair the existing base and find more oil have been in vain and the place has been abandoned.

2. AUST NEW GUINEA

(a) LAE - SALAMUA - MORO - WAW

1 Oct Allied patrols successfully raided MORO, causing considerable damage. No further details have been received. It is thought that casualties were fairly heavy.

2 Oct Considerable JAPANESE reinforcements were brought up from SALAMUA but there is no indication of a further drive towards WAW as yet.

(b) LUNA - EPOGI - MOREBY

In the late afternoon of 1 Oct Allied fwd elements were positioned in the Japanese rear guard just SOUTH of MOREBY, but still had not contacted the main enemy force. On 2 Oct a large Allied force had occupied MOREBY and our fwd patrols had pushed on ahead and reported that no Japanese had been sighted.

Much enemy equip, including armor-piercing bombs, were captured in MOREBY, evidence of a heavy withdrawal by the enemy.

By 3 Oct our fwd patrols had reached EPOGI, and one first-class Japanese Pte and one sick BABAUB native were captured.

At 0300 hrs on 4 Oct our fwd patrols left EPOGI for MOREBY in an attempt to gain contact with the enemy. The main Allied force were concentrated in the vicinity of MOREBY and the rapid advance hitherto reported was considerably slowed up owing to continuous heavy rain making the narrow native paths dangerous and increasing the difficulty of supplying our fwd units with ammo and food.

Early in the morning of 5 Oct Allied a/c effectively bombed and strafed the EPOGI - MOREBY LAKE area. Haze and rain were still present and fire started.

Enemy prisoners captured at NAURO stated that it was the Japanese intention to withdraw to MOREBY as the maintenance of supplies over the OWEN STANLEY Range had become too great a problem owing to the continuous Allied bombing and strafing of supply lines. coupled with the continuous NW rains.

No further sig cable was seen from HAHU towards the enemy strong posts had been evacuated, indicating the complete surprise of the sudden Allied offensive. This was also evidenced by the finding of numerous unburied dead and the large quantity of arms in this area.

6 OCT: Two Japanese were captured on the track between NAURO and WENARI.

Our fwd patrols occupied BAGA, overlooking MYOLA LAKE.

Questioning of the Jap PW before they died revealed that the enemy strength at TORIBAIWA was 1 Inf Regt, 1 Inf Bn and 1 Regt Bn.

Allied a/c have maintained an offensive with little or no opposition over the entire area during the present action. Enemy installations and supply dumps along the KONGA-BUNA track have been bombed and strafed and the main wire bridge over the KONGA RIVER at WAIROFI kept unworkable.

The Japanese have been forced to maintain a large number of engineers at this bridge to effect repairs after heavy bombing by Allied planes. After the demolition of the bridge on 2 Oct the Japanese were forced to divert their main supply line from WAIROFI and use a small trail over the headwaters of the KONGA RIVER.

By 3 Oct this bridge had also been destroyed by Allied bombing. A small bridge was built to replace the WAIROFI bridge but this was insufficient to carry heavy freight and this has now been supplemented by a single wire cable and a sling.

4 OCT: Two destroyers and two frigates were sighted approaching BUNA. Allied a/c attacked these ships when only nine miles from BUNA. One heavy cruiser was observed. It is probable that six intercepting Zero fighters were shot down.

Many natives deserting from Japanese forces and evacuating BUNA area reported Japanese atrocities and ill-treatment of natives in the BUNA area. Native carriers are not being paid and are being forced to look back by bayonets if refused to do so. Japanese are not paying them for their services and allow them one meal a day and no medical attention.

Since the Japanese commenced using SAMANANDA as their new base Allied a/c have concentrated on this area and the village is now reported to be in ruins. All barges have been burnt and destroyed. SAMANANDA and BUNA are now unworkable.

(a) WILNE BAY - NORMANBY ISLAND - GOODENOUGH ISLAND

(i) WILNE BAY: Situation normal.

(ii) NORMANBY ISLAND: It is considered that all but a few Japanese stragglers have been evacuated from NORMANBY ISLAND.

(iii) GOODENOUGH ISLAND: Reflections point to a force of approx 300 Japanese still at GOODENOUGH ISLAND and located between BELARA (on the SW Coast) and WUB BAY (SE Coast).

Enemy CP of 30 men is continuously manned at WAIWUBU Point (most easterly point of GOODENOUGH ISLAND).

7 Oct: Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

8 Oct: Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

(d) NEW IRITANI

2 Oct: Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

Boats were also destroyed in the Rabaul area around Rabaul Aerodrome causing extensive damage.

Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

(e) NEW IRELAND

Locations were reported in the vicinity of New Ireland. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

3 Oct: Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

On 3 Oct, Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

On 4 Oct, Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

4 Oct: Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

When 30 were reported to be in the area of New Ireland. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

Enemy bombers following the fighters at a distance of 55 miles from Rabaul. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

8 Oct: Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

Despite Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

30th Oct: Allied a/c destroyed a Japanese a/c at Rabaul Harbour. The Japanese a/c was shot down by a P-40.

DISTRIBUTION

7 Oct	108 I A D
8 Oct	108 I A D
9 Oct	108 I A D
10 Oct	108 I A D
11 Oct	108 I A D
12 Oct	108 I A D
13 Oct	108 I A D
14 Oct	108 I A D
15 Oct	108 I A D
16 Oct	108 I A D
17 Oct	108 I A D
18 Oct	108 I A D
19 Oct	108 I A D
20 Oct	108 I A D
21 Oct	108 I A D
22 Oct	108 I A D
23 Oct	108 I A D
24 Oct	108 I A D
25 Oct	108 I A D
26 Oct	108 I A D
27 Oct	108 I A D
28 Oct	108 I A D
29 Oct	108 I A D
30 Oct	108 I A D

Ref Map DARWIN and ENVIRONS 1 in - 1 mile

APPX H

Unit	Subject	Date	Time	S.P. or Firing Pt	Route or Direction	Area	Type of Practice	Remarks
7 Aust Inf Bn	NT Force Special Exercise	12 Oct to 15 Oct	-	-	-	Between BYNOE BAY & DALY RIVER	-	-
	Coy Exercises	16 and 17 Oct	-	-	-	132722	To practice Coys in occupation of Coy defensive posn digging, wiring, laying of mine field etc.	During occupation simulation of enemy arty concentration will be organised using trg explosives, for each coy.
	Individual Trg	12, 16 & 17 Oct	0930 - 1730	-	-	Coy Areas	Battle drill and weapon trg) Those Coys not engaged on the coy Exercises
	Range Practices	12, 16 & 17 Oct	0930 - 1730	122727	40°	-	-	
8 Aust Inf Bn	NT Force Special Exercise	12 Oct to 15 Oct	-	-	-	Between BYNOE BAY & DALY RIVER	→	→
	Coy Exercises	16 & 17 Oct	-	-	-	176688	To practice Coys in occupation of Coy defensive posn, digging, wiring, laying of mine field etc.	During occupation, simulation of enemy arty concentration will be organised using trg explosives, for each coy.
	Individual Trg	12, 16 & 17 Oct	0930 - 1730	-	-	Coy Areas	Battle drill and weapon trg) These Coys not engaged on the coy Exercises
	Range practices	12, 16 & 17 Oct	0930 - 1730	143661	212°	-	-	
19 Aust MG Bn	NT Force Special Exercise	12 to 15 Oct	-	-	-	Between BYNOE BAY & DALY RIVER	→	-
	Individual Trg	12, 16 & 17 Oct	0930 - 1730	-	-	Coy Areas	Weapon Trg	-
	Range Practices	12, 16 & 17 Oct	0930 - 1730	NOONAMAH RANGE 074846	315°	-	-	Using NOONAMAH Range until their own is completed

Brigadier
Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde AIF.

Appx I

23 Aust Inf Bde AIF
11 Oct 42
5238/9/15

NT FORCE

SUPPLIES FOR BATTALION IN THE FORTRESS

The following are extracts from the War Diary (comments by CO for the month of September, 1942) of CO 2/4 Aust Pnr Bn.-

"5(a). A check has been made of medical, food and water supplies in the Fortress. In case of operations this unit is to be the Fortress bn and the above matters are considered very important. Arrangements have been made for 1 week supply of water to be kept in drums in coy localities. These are now in position. When the pipe line from Manton Dam is cut, as may be expected, further water is obtainable in wells which have been surveyed and tested by the unit.

"(b). Food presents a problem and Fortress have been addressed as per appendix A to this note and a reply received as per appendix B. This is not considered satisfactory.

"(c). Medical supplies have been investigated and a report of stocks held is attached. A letter (attached) has been addressed to Fortress on this subject. This matter was discussed by me with the Fortress Comd and DDMS NT Force and an assurance given that medical supplies are sufficient. This matter is re-opened by the letter addressed to Fortress. "

Copies of Appendices A and B mentioned in Para 5(b) are not enclosed but the letter mentioned in sub-para 5(c) reads as follows :-

"FORTRESS COMMAND

MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN DARWIN FORTRESS

"1. It is felt that medical supplies held in the Fortress Area may be inadequate in the event of operations in this district. One of the lessons of the Philippines operations is that no fortress can hold out when medical supplies have been exhausted.

"2. Inquiries that have been made indicate that there are within the DARWIN Fortress

- (i) two weeks' supplies for Unit RAPS - present consumption;
- (ii) sufficient reserves to enable Kahlin Hospital to continue for about six weeks at present consumption rate;
- (iii) adequate supplies of morphia and sulfa drugs;
- (iv) very small medical supplies held in Unit RAPS.

"3. It is requested please that a full investigation of the question of medical supplies be made immediately so that adequate supplies may be maintained. It is considered that there should be sufficient reserves for operations lasting at least 60 days. "

As 2/4 Aust Pnr Bn is one of the battalions of 23 Aust Inf Bde temporarily detached for duty, and may have to fight in the Fortress, it is requested that the matters indicated in the above extracts be thoroughly investigated.

J. S. [Signature], Brigadier
Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde AIF

Copies to -
War Diary (2) ✓
File

Wardrang

23 Aust Inf Bde
12 Oct 42

23 AUST INF BDE ADM ORDER NO 2

APPX J

Ref Maps :- DARWIN 1" - 1 mile Sheet 5
" - 1/4 mile - 1 inch
PINE CREEK 1/4 miles - 1"

1. INFORMATION

As contained in NT Force Opg Et with Ops No 5.

2. MOVEMENT

23 Aust Inf Bde Gp will move in convoy via MAIN RD to track June 40 MILE - DARWIN R - LUCY MINE - WH track June 740752 (Sheet 5) and thence via EAST CHARLOTTE R track BYNOE BAY RD to debussing area between MAGNETIC FLATS and WEST bank PIONEER CREEK.

See Movement table appx "A".

3. METHOD

(a) Recon party - Unit recon parties report to this HQ by 1730 hrs 12 Oct 42 as follows :-

Bde HQ	2 vehs
7 Aust Inf Bn	1 veh
8 Aust Inf Bn	1 veh
19 Aust MG Bn	1 veh
42 Pz Coy	1 veh
8 Coy AACF	1 veh

(b) Tp carriers from 8 Coy AACF allotted to units on 12 Oct 42 as follows :-

Unit	No of Tp Serial No	Reporting at
19 Aust MG Bn	19 - 19	1700 hrs
8 Aust Inf Bn	20 - 45	1700 hrs
7 Aust Inf Bn	22 - 40 - 47	1700 hrs

(c) Control

See NT Force Ops Coy will maintain mobile patrols where practicable and in addition establish control posts at :-

- June MAIN RD 40 mile track
- June DARWIN S Sta and LUCY MINE tracks (777622 Sheet 5)
- Track June LUCY MINE (777622 Sheet 5)
- WH track June (740752 Sheet 5)
- EAST CHARLOTTE R - BYNOE BAY RD June (790770 Sheet 5)

A patrol will also be maintained from track June 790770 to PIONEER CREEK.

(d) Check Post

MAIN RD and track June 40 miles. First veh in unit convoy report giving number of vehs in gp. Last veh in unit gp to report all clear.

(e) Debussing

Debussing will be controlled by unit recon parties. Tp carriers will then move to dispersal area WEST bank of PIONEER CREEK. Officer of 8 Coy AACF will maintain liaison with Bde 23 Bde until rpt reverts to comd AACF.

4. GENERAL

- (a) Pws collecting post will be established.
- (b) Water - Water pt will be established by 23 Pz Coy, PIONEER CREEK 860790 (Sheet 5). Policing of water points under Bde arrangements.
- (c) Load - All ball am including pistol to be withdrawn prior to exercise. 1000 rds ball for MG or LMG and 50 rds per man will be carried in unit rpt. A 1-ton veh from 7 and 8 Aust Inf Bns carrying mixed load am to report to this HQ by 1730 hrs Monday 12 Oct 42. Demands to replace theoretical expenditure will be submitted.

12

- (d) PQL - Units will carry normal reserve plus 50 miles per day. Location of PQL will be notified when established.
- (e) Rations - Three days reserve rations plus one day's emergency ration will be carried. Units will return to normal rations as from 16 Oct 42.
- (f) Engage - Sub-sec 23 Pd Coy will come under command each Bn at 1700 hrs 12 Oct 42. They will move with and be rationed by unit to which they are attached.
- (g) Med - One NCO and 3 OR and one Amb Wagon and 3 OR from 2/22 Pd Amb will report to each Bn at 1700 hrs 12 Oct 42. NCO and 3 OR will be lifted in Bn trucks, and all will be rationed by unit to which they are attached. Lt MCB Sec 2/12 Pd Amb will be att to Bde HQ at 1730hrs on 12 Oct 42 and move with Bde HQ convoy. See Movement table appx "A".
- (h) Gas - Every effort will be made to remove all gas positions immediately from the line and trucks, drivers taking every precaution to prevent blockage of vital comms. Non-runners will be evacuated by LAD to gas posts in vicinity SOUTHPOST by 2200 hrs (Sheet 5) and vicinity SPARTAN Sta 091053. NT Force Div will maintain recovery patrols on all tracks.

5. AIR CO-OPERATION

During the exercise, Bde HQ will cooperate with our forces by simulation of dive bombing and strafing of enemy positions. Indication of area which our spotlights will be used will be given by lighting of smoke candles in the enemy zone and by the leading end of our line flashing mirrors to indicate to the A/C the line they have reached. Bde HQ advise that the flash of mirrors can be seen by pilots from 8000/7000 feet, although it may not be apparent to the eye on the ground that the flash is being seen by the A/C.

6. AOK

7. Time of signature 2230 hrs

[Signature]
 30 25 Aust Inf Bde Captain
 AIF

DISTRIBUTION

- 7 Aust Inf Bn
- 8 Aust Inf Bn
- 19 Aust Bde
- 42 Pz Bty X Sec Sign
- 14 A TR Bty
- 8 Coy AASC
- 23rd Coy
- 2/22 Aust Pz Amb
- 108 LAD
- 256 LAD
- Comd
- BM
- 3C
- TO
- IO
- LD
- BA3CO
- War Diary (2)
- File

MOVEMENT TABLE

APPENDIX "A"

(Issued with 23 bde Adm Order No 2 dated 12 Oct 42)

ROUTE Main rd to 4.0 mile track junc. DARWIN R - LUCY MINE.
Water Hole to junc 740752 EAST CHARLOTTE RIVER - BYNOE BAY RD
to debussing area.

SPEED AND DENSITY : Speed 15 mph on main rd 6 mph on tks.
Density - 10' vkm

HALTS : 10 mins to even hours

Seq No	Unit	No of Vehs	BT	SP	First veh past Control	Last Veh past Control	Debussing Point	Remarks
1.	Reece Party	7	1800	Bde HQ	-	4	-	
2.	B Ech	Bde HQ 7 K Sec Sigs 3 42 Bty 2 23 Fd Coy 4 8 Coy AASC 8	1830	Bde HQ	1835	1850	Dispersal Area NORTH of BYNOR RD approx 850790	B Ech Brigaded on arrival
3.	B Ech 7 Bn	10	1840	7 Bn Line	1851	1856		
4.	B Ech 8 Bn	9	1852	8 Bn Line	1857	1902		
5.	B Ech 19 Bn	10	1820	19 Bn Line	1903	1908		
6.	23 Bde HQ Op Co	HQ 8 K Sec Sigs 4 2/12 Fd Amb 4	1905	Bde HQ	1910	1920	849785	
7.	19 Bn Gp	A Ech 10 K Sec Sigs 2 Tp Carriers 19 A/Tk Tp 6 Eng 1 Amb 1 236 LAD 5	1840	19 Bn Line	1922	1945	Approx 845785	
8.	8 Bn Gp	A Ech 14 K Sec Sigs 1 Tp Carriers 26 A/Tk Tp 4 Eng 1 Amb 1	1940	8 Bn Line	1947	2022	Approx 826782	10 min halt 1950-2000
9.	7 Bn Gp	A Ech 14 K Sec Sigs 1 Tp Carriers 22 A/Tk Tp 4 Eng 1 Amb 1	2015	7 Bn Line	2025	2050	Approx 816787	
10.	42 Bty	16	2042	Bty Line	2052	2106	Approx 842783	
11.	108 LAD	5	2106	Unit Line	2108	2111	Approx 850790	

APPX. K

23 Aust Inf Bde AIF
12 Oct 42

3007/23/45

NT Force

TYRES - MOBILE RETREADING PLANT

Attached is a suggestion by two signalmen of "K" Sec Sigs, attached to this Brigade, for your consideration.

The two men, Evans and Killip, were in the motor trade before enlisting in the AIF.

Owing to the present shortage of rubber many vulcanizing plants have been closed down, and one or more of these could quite easily be impressed, and brought to the Northern Territory.

W. S. O'Grady

Brigadier

Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde AIF

Copies to -
108 LAD (For infm)
War Diary (2) ✓
File.

1.

"K" Section Sigs.,
Att. 23 Aust Inf. Bde.,

6 Oct. '42.

T.O.,
23 Aust Inf. Bde.

TYRES - MOBILE RETREADING PLANT.

We submit herewith for your consideration an idea proven commercially, which in our opinion could be adopted advantageously in this area, and moreover greatly assist the war effort.

We refer to the reclaiming of used tyres by VULCANISING (retreading). The methods employed and the results obtained are well known. Suffice to say that a tyre discarded as useless except for scrap rubber can be given an added life of from eight to ten thousand miles, and if a plant be available in this area as we suggest it should be, valuable time will be saved, stocks will be kept up without the necessity of bringing them over long lines of communication as at present; thus releasing this valuable space for other war materials.

We have no doubt that a vulcanising plant could be acquired by the Army. Upon its arrival it could be made mobile by mounting it in three vehicles and so travel from point to point inspecting and reconditioning tyres before they become too worn to render them good for nothing else but scrap rubber.

For the efficient running of our proposed Plant, six men conversant with the trade would be necessary. These men could retread and repair up to twenty tyres of any type and size per day, and as from ten to twelve pounds of rubber only is necessary for each tyre, one ton of reclaimed rubber would be sufficient for two hundred retreads; other incidentals and materials are used in the process, but only a small percentage of each is required.

2.

TYRES - MOBILE RETREADING PLANT, contd.

We have no doubt that given the opportunity we can do what we claim and thus serve this area and Australia's war effort in general.

This idea could be explained with more detail if an interview could be arranged.

The above was written by VX33510 signm. EVANS, J.K., and QX13543 signm. KILLIP, E.A.

Appx L

Australian Military Forces—7th Military District.

Please quote this Number when replying.

3.262	9	18
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St 8929

Head-Quarters,
Darwin.

23 Aust Inf Bde
14 Oct 42

SECRET

HQ NT Force

USE OF HORSES BY INF BNS

1. It is requested that 100 riding horses, complete with saddlery and equipment, be obtained and made available to this Bde.
2. It is considered that horsemen would be invaluable in this type of country for purpose of recce, intercomm and feints, and also for small offensive patrols outside the range of inf. During the wet season, horsemen will be able to operate over a much larger radius than inf in a given time, as any movement by MT, apart from on main roads, will become very difficult.
3. The possession of horses will also allow the carriage of essential supplies and amm to units or sub-units when MT cannot traverse the country, should such units be operating any distance from main roads.
4. Should horses be made available it is proposed to allot a proportion to each bn and train sufficient personnel as mounted inf to allow the possible roles mentioned above to be carried out.

Subanghery, Brigadier
Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde

War Diary —

14 Oct 42

23 AUST INF BDE TEWT No 4

OBJECT

1. To teach Offrs of the Bde gp -
 - (a) The formations in which patrols move.
 - (b) The principle which determines the distance between parts, or groups, of a patrol.
 - (c) The factors which govern the posn of scouts.

OPENING SITUATION

2. Enemy tps are known to be working in the square; 7 Bn biv area, 8 Bn biv area, ACACIA GAP, FREDS PASS.
3. Information is required by 23 Bde HQ as to the number of enemy, posns occupied, patrol routes, etc and a patrol of one Offr and 9 ORs has been dispatched from the 39 mile with this object in view.

NARRATIVE I

4. You are patrol leader and you have reached the point indicated on the ground. Your patrol is moving in a NE direction through close timbered country.

PROBLEM I

5. How would the other members of your patrol be disposed with respect to your posn.

DS NOTES PROBLEM I

6. See appx "A"

NARRATIVE II

7. You are patrol leader and you have reached the point indicated on the ground. Your patrol is moving in a NORTHERLY direction through very close country.

PROBLEM II

8. How would the other members of your patrol be disposed with respect to your posn.

DS NOTES PROBLEM II

9. See appx "B"

NARRATIVE III

10. You are patrol leader and you have reached the point indicated on the ground. Your patrol is moving in an EASTERLY direction on a dark night through close timbered country.

PROBLEM III

11. How would the other members of your patrol be disposed with respect to your posn.

DS NOTES PROBLEM III

12. Same groupings and posns as in Appx "B", with the exception that the distance between members and groups would be lessened, owing to the slight decrease in visibility.

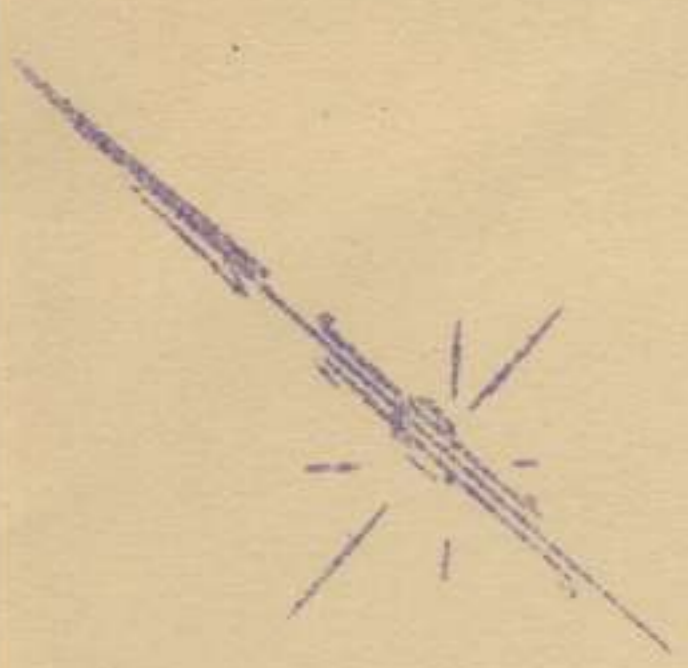
DISTRIBUTION

7 Aust Inf Bn 20
 8 Aust Inf Bn 20
 19 Aust MG Bn 20
 2/4 Aust Pnr Bn 20
 Bde Comd
 BM
 SC
 BML
 IO
 LO I
 War Diary 2
 File

<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Z	Arrive at Stand 1 (151696)
Z to Z+5	Directors opening Comments, making clear the object of the TEWT.
Z+5 to Z+10	Opening situation, Narrative 1 and Problem 1 given.
Z+10 to Z+25	Students solve Problem I.
Z+25 to Z+50	Solutions to and discussion of Problem I.
Z+50	Move to Stand II (149698)
Z+60	Arrive at Stand II.
Z+60 to Z+65	Narrative II and Problem II given.
Z+65 to Z+80	Students solve Problem II.
Z+80 to Z+105	Solution to and discussion of Problem II.
Z+105 to Z+135	Evening Meal.
Z+135	Move to Stand III (151696)
Z+145	Arrive at Stand III.
Z+145 to Z+150	Narrative III and Problem III given.
Z+150 to Z+165	Students solve Problem III.
Z+165 to Z+185	Solutions to and discussions of Problem III.
Z+185 to Z+190	Final Remarks by Director.

NOTE Map references in brackets.

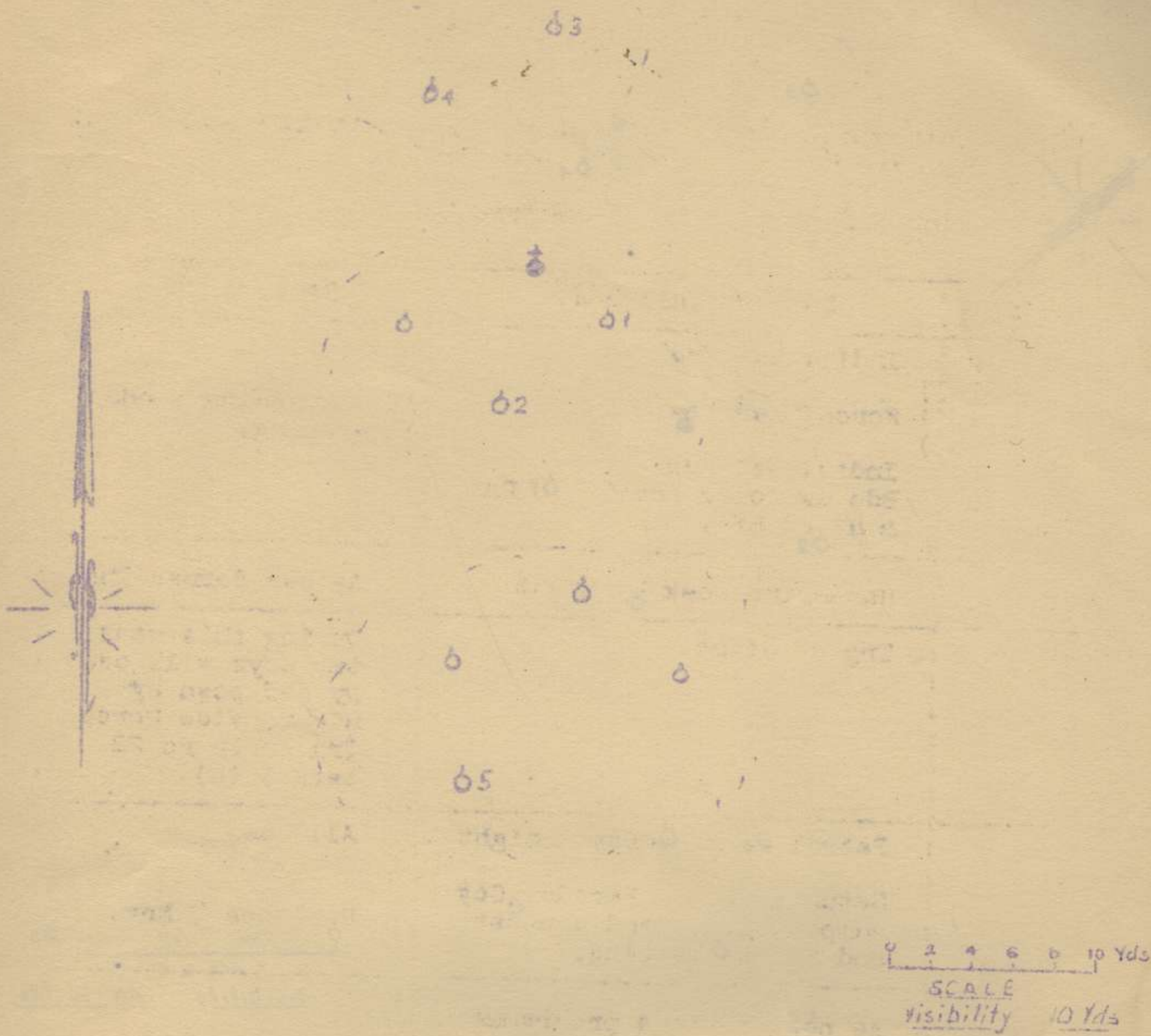
Ref Map DARWIN and ENVIRONS Sheet 6 1" to 1 mile.



0 10 20 30 Yds
SCALE
visibility 40-50 Yds

NOTES

1. 1 & 2 are No 1 & No 2 LMG men
2. 3 & 4 are sniper scouts, 5 is intercommunication man
3. Main factors governing formations are --
 - (a) The task
 - (b) Visibility
 - (c) Control
 - (d) Protection
 - (e) Simplicity
 - (f) Adaptability
4. The formation must be flexible, handy and able to "Shake out" rapidly into any other formation which will suit changing ground or situation.
5. Must be able to inflict the maximum damage to the enemy with the minimum loss to itself.
6. The breaking down of sec to group system is once again proved to be of utmost value.



- NOTE
1. 1 & 2 are No 1 & No 2 LMG men
 2. 3 & 4 are sniper scouts, 5 is inter-communication man
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 - (e) Simplicity
 - (f) Adeptability
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 5. The breaking down of sec to group system is once again proved to be of the utmost value.

25 Aust Inf Bde
15 Oct 42

Sdk/ - 12 - 1

TRAINING PROGRAMME

1. Owing to postponement of Force Exercise No 5, further amendments to training syllabus have become necessary.
2. The following Programme will be substituted :--

Week ending	Subject (all Bns)	Remarks
24 Oct	M Individual Trg T) W) Force Exercise Th) F Individual Trg S Bde exercise for 7 & 8 Bns & 42 Fd Bty.	Commencing Monday evening.
31 Oct	Hardening week by night	As per former Instn
7 Nov	Trg by night.	During this week, two coys will occupy def posn by night, vide Force Trg Instn No 22 para 5 (b)
14 Nov	Patrol week by Day & night Saturday - Bde Parade, Coy competition, Band contest and Sports Meeting.	All Bns. Replaces 7 Nov.
21 Nov to 5 Dec	As per previous programme dated 24 Sep 42.	

3. 19 MG Bn will carry out training in conformity with above programme subject to alterations in detail already advised verbally.

4. TEWTS for junior offrns and potential Offrs as per memo S257/12/7 of 13 Oct will be held as follows :--

Thurs	15 Oct	8 Aust Inf Bn
Sat	17 Oct	7 Aust Inf Bn
Fri	23 Oct	19 Aust MG Bn

Students will be at assembly area by 1730 hrs on days mentioned.

J. J. J.
Major.
BM 23 Aust Inf Bde. AIF.

DISTRIBUTION

- 2/4 Aust Pnr Bn
- 7 Aust Inf Bn
- 8 Aust Inf Bn
- 19 Aust MG Bn
- 42 Fd Bty
- 4 A Tk Bty
- K Sec Sigs
- 108 LAD
- Bde Comd
- BM
- IO
- SC
- War Diary 2
- File

MINUTE BOOK

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE - CO-ORDINATION

23 Aust Inf Bde
4 Nov 42.

5.319/2/9

HQ NT Force

COMMS WITH A/C

1. A series of experiments in comms between ground tps and A/C were carried out on 17 Oct 42 at STRAUSS aerodrome by this HQ in conjunction with RAAF.
2. Tps taking part were :-- det K Sec Sigs NT Force.
one Wirraway - 12 Sqn RAAF.
3. Tests and results were as follows :--

No	Equipment		Result.
	Air	Ground	
1.	ALDIS LAMP	LUCAS LAMP	:Signals from ground were discernable :to observer, but could only be read :with difficulty and needed repetit- :ion. The narrow beam of the LUCAS :lamp made it difficult to keep it :focussed on the plane. ALDIS lamp :signals from the plane were read :easily by sign on the ground.
2.	ALDIS LAMP	ALDIS LAMP	:Signals were read easily by both :plane and ground personnel. Speed :6 words per min. Height of plane :up to 2000 ft. Also tested from :ground posn amongst trees with :equally good results.
3.	Inf 108 Set using A/C aerial	Inf 108 Set using 45' aerial thrown over tree	:R/T - very good up to 2000 ft :elevation and over a ground range :of up to 4 mls.
4.	Plane radio, tuned to 108 Set frequency	Inf 108 Set using 45' aerial.	:R/T reception on ground excellent :at a range of up to 10 mls, plane :up to 2000 ft elevation. :Reception by plane very good up to :4mls ground range.

5. The experiments demonstrated that with standard equipment it is possible to arrange without difficulty satisfactory comms between ground and air.
6. The following suggestions are offered :--
 - (a) That planes co-operating with inf work on radio frequencies within the inf 108 Set band.
 - (b) That each Bn be issued with at least one ALDIS Lamp to be operated by its regtl sigs.

CW Pat
Brigadier
Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde. AIF

Copies to :--
File 1
War Diary 2

Datum
Head-Quarters

MESSAGE FORM

APPX O

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN
OUT

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

7, 8 Am 19 196. Pm: 42 Jm Bg; 14 19th Bg; 23 July K. Sec. Sec.

FROM

23 am 196 Pm

Originator's Number

0493

Date

17

In Reply to Number

Units	will	conduct	business	for	all
MT	personnel	dealing	with	instructions	under
involvement	of	all	units	is	per
GRO	0458	of	9	out	⊙
ack					

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 CYPHER**

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

DRLS

TIME OF ORIGIN

0945

SIGNED

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

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

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

Information contained in this document is not to be communicated either directly or indirectly to the press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's Services.

Serial No 11
Nos 79 - 87

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

by

BRIGADIER I.N. DOUGHERTY DSO
Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde AIF

In the Field
17 Oct 42

<u>79. DUTY OFFICERS</u>	Saturday	17 Oct 42	Lieut R.T.M. ROSE
	Sunday	18 Oct 42	Capt N.P. PROSSOR
	Monday	19 Oct 42	Lieut L.G. POWELL
	Tuesday	20 Oct 42	Lieut A.R. DRIVER
	Wednesday	21 Oct 42	Capt K.W. TEASDALE
	Thursday	22 Oct 42	Lieut A. J. FITZGERALD
	Friday	23 Oct 42	Lieut C.R.L. CAYSER

80. CLOTHES RATIONING (REF GRO 7452)

ISSUE OF DUPLICATE RATION BOOKS - In cases where ration books are lost, the procedure to be adopted regarding replacement, will be as under :--

- (a) The member losing his book will complete a statutory declaration giving the date of loss, the circumstances of the loss and the number of coupons which had been used at the time of the loss.
- (b) The CO of the unit may authorise the issue of a new ration book if the inquiry shows that the case is genuine, but coupons to the number that he is satisfied has been used, will be cancelled and removed therefrom.
- (c) All such issues, together with cancelled coupons will be accounted for through the Depot of Divisional Paymaster to the District Finance Officer or Command Paymaster, as the case may be, in a manner similar to that provided in GRO F 232 for ordinary and special issues.

Personnel should take special care to ensure that ration books are not lost, as replacement will only be made where the CO is satisfied the circumstances justify it. If a member is found to have wilfully made a false statement in his statutory declaration regarding loss, he is liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour.

81. IRREGULAR USE OF CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS

Mail matter is being received by the Army Postal Service in this area bearing previously used stamps. No matter how faint the impression, postage stamps which are postmarked are no longer serviceable for postage purposes. The placing of such stamps on postal articles is illegal, and disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.

82. AA GUN POSITIONS - OUT OF BOUNDS

Personnel will not interfere with or remove material from AA gun positions, or buildings, whether in use or not. Certain AA gun positions may not be occupied all the time or may be used as dumps, but have to be kept ready for immediate occupation.

83. CONSERVATION
OF FOODSTUFFS

Owing to the shortage of potato supplies, and in order to prevent waste of protective foods in Army kitchens and by troops generally, every effort will be made to conserve this valuable food.

In this regard potatoes, as from October 15, 1942, will not be peeled before cooking but will be scrubbed clean, bad potatoes, if any, cut out, and then cooked in their jackets.

A GRC embodying the above and setting out further particulars in regard to the preparation of potatoes for cooking will be issued in the near future.

84. REMITTANCES

The following arrangements for handling remittances to civilian remittees are now in force :--

- (a) remittance of cash
- (b) remittance of undrawn pay not exceeding £25.

These remittances are paid through the Command Paymaster's bank account. Cheques are despatched to remittees by air mail within 24 hrs of receipt of the documents in the Command Pay Office.

(c) Remittances of undrawn pay exceeding £25. These remittances must be payed through District Finance Officers and it is probable that some delay in payment will occur.

Remittances to the credit of another members pay book are effected by the issue of a credit note from the Command Pay Office within 24 hrs of receipt of the documents.

Consequent upon the provision of the above facilities the practice of forwarding currency by mail from any point north of IARRIMAH (inclusive), is to cease forthwith, except in exceptional circumstances and with the consent of the members Commanding Officer. Unit censors will police this instruction.

The practice of sending large sums by postal notes should be discontinued. It is pointed out that if the letter is registered, the maximum compensation for loss is £2. Greater amounts should therefore be forwarded through the pay Office to avoid risk of loss.

The Christian Names of civilian allottees must be shown on the remittance form. Paymasters and pay sergeants are instructed to refuse remittances which do not comply with this requirement.

M. Brown Captain
20 25 Aust Inf Bde. AIF.

DISTRIBUTION "A"

NOTICES

Receipt is acknowledged with thanks of October - Comforts Issue as under from ACF :--

- 1 oz Tobacco
- 1 Pkt Papers
- 1 Cake toilet Soap
- 1 Tin Boot Polish
- 3 Pkts PKs
- 1 Pr U/pants.

Ref Map DARWIN and ENVIRONS 1 in - 1 mile

Wan Giam

Unit	Subject	Date	Time	W, P or Night	Route or Direction	Area	Type of Practice	Remarks
7 Aust Inf Bn	MT Force Special Exercise	19 Oct to 22 Oct	1800 hrs 19 Oct to 1800 hrs 22 Oct	-	-	Between SOUTHPORT RD and STAPLETON By Sta's	-	-
	Individual Trg	19 Oct & 23 Oct	0930 - 1800 hrs	-	-	Coy Areas	LMG (Bren) Trg, Weapon Trg, Map Reading, Specialist Trg & Lecture by CO's Coy's "Mobile Defense"	
	Range Practices	23 Oct	0930 - 1800	-	40°	-	Classification	
	Bde Exercise	24 Oct	-	-	-	Sq. 1570, 2770, 2768, 1568.	Bde in attack, one Bn encircling with Arty sup, with live amm.	
8 Aust Inf Bn	MT Force Special Exercise	19 Oct to 22 Oct	1800 hrs 19 Oct to 1800 hrs 22 Oct	-	-	Between SOUTHPORT RD and STAPLETON By Sta's	-	-
	Individual Trg	19 Oct & 23 Oct	0930 - 1800 hrs	-	-	Coy Areas	LMG, Grenade, Rifle, Respirator Trg and Map Reading.	
	Bde Exercise	24 Oct	-	-	-	Sq. 1570, 2770, 2768, 1568.	Bde in attack, one Bn encircling with Arty sup, with live amm	
	Range Practices	23 Oct	-	-	-	-	-	
19 Aust Inf Bn	MT Force Special Exercise	19 Oct to 22 Oct	1800 hrs 19 Oct to 1800 hrs 22 Oct	-	-	Between SOUTHPORT RD and STAPLETON By Sta's	-	-
	Individual Trg	19, 23 24, 25 Oct	0930 - 1730 hrs	-	-	Coy Areas	MMG Trg, including mechanism, adv handling, stripping, IA, Sighting & SZ's, Bayonet Trg and Map Reading.	
	Range Practices	19, 23 24, 25 Oct	-	-	-	DOONABAN RANGE	MMG practice	A Coy - 19 Oct B " - 23 " " C " - 24 " " D " - 25 " "
	Range Practices	19, 23 24, 25 Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-

CO
BN
SC

Board
War Diary 2 ✓
File

Wan Giam
Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde. AIF.
AOD

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 107

ISSUED BY 23 AUST INF BDE A I F

War Diary
APPX R

Compiled from information received between 2200 hrs 10 Oct 42 and 1800 hrs 17 Oct 42.

NOTE Information contained herein will be passed on to all ranks.

1 DARWIN AREA

(b) Own Air Activity

i. Three Allied bombers attacked DILLI during the night 10/11 Oct. Targets in the vicinity of DILLI were obscured by cloud, so bombs were dropped in the township area from 18,000 feet, causing fires. AA fire was observed up to 16,000 feet.

iii. Night 12/13 Oct - Three sorties, each comprising one Allied A/C, were made over DILLI area. Heavy low cloud obscured the target, forcing two of our A/C to return, but the third dropped its bombs, which are considered to have fallen in the target area.

vi. 15 Oct - Two Allied med bombers attacked targets in AILEU (PORTUGUESE TIMOR). Bombs from one A/C fell right across the target, which is considered to have been demolished. Bombs from the other A/C fell within 100 yds of the target.

vii. 16 Oct - Three Allied med bombers left to attack targets in DILLI area, but owing to heavy cloud formations, were unable to locate the area. The A/C then flew EASTwards and dropped bombs on the township of MANAPUTO. Bombs were dropped from a height of 2,000 ft, and fell in the target area, causing fires in some buildings. After strafing huts and buildings, the A/C returned safely.

2 LAI-SALAKAUA-LUBO-WAU

In the raid on LUBO by the Allied tps night 1/2 Oct, it was estimated that at least 25 Japanese were killed. Our casualties were slight. The surprise element of this attack was lost owing to the presence of booby traps, some of which were exploded by our own tps, indicating that the Japanese were aware of the impending raid. On the alarm being given, the Japanese immediately appeared and heavily MG'd the area.

13 Oct - Allied patrols penetrated beyond GUADACATEI (two miles SOUTH of LUBO) without encountering any enemy. Some idea of Japanese fear of Australian guerilla tps is indicated by a report from our patrols in this area that Japanese sentries stationed along the WAU-LUBO track during the day, withdraw within the Japanese LUBO perimeter by nightfall.

It is reported from the SALAKAUA Area that natives in the vicinity of SALAKAUA are being forced to grow native foods for Japanese tps in occupation. Native gardens are ravaged periodically, and natives do not receive pay for any food taken. SALAKAUA Is has been declared out of bounds by the Japanese for all natives.

(b) BUNA-KOKODA-MORESBY

The rapid advance of Allied tps in this area appears to have slowed down, and reports indicate that our forward elements are now in contact with the main enemy force near TEMPLETON'S CROSSING in the YEORA GORGE. (The main BUNA-MORESBY Track along which the present action is taking place, crosses one of the headwaters of the YODDA River in the YEORA GORGE at TEMPLETON'S CROSSING on the EASTern slopes of the OWEN STANLEY Range.) BY 12 Oct, small parties of Japanese rearguard tps had been driven back NORTH of MYOLA which left the way clear for our main advance to prepared enemy posns near TEMPLETON'S CROSSING.

The enemy had prepared defensive posns about two miles SOUTH of the CROSSING, and after fighting a tenacious, delaying action, were driven back approx one mile through their own posns by our tps. Whilst this main action was in progress, Allied patrols outflanked enemy posns and penetrated behind the main force, attacking what is thought to have been Japanese Advanced Headquarters. 30 enemy casualties were inflicted and one LMG was destroyed before the party was forced out by accurate mortar fire and a Japanese counter attack. By 14 Oct, the action in this area was still in progress, and although the rapid momentum of our advance had been slowed up, we had forced the enemy back a further 700 yds by nightfall. On the 15 Oct, pressure was maintained, and it was reported that Japanese are not patrolling, but are holding their fire until our forward tps are close. Allied fighting patrols are probing the enemy front and flanks continually, and the latest report indicates that main enemy posns are sited on narrow, razorback features, making Allied manoeuvres difficult.

Allied air force planes continued to harrass the enemy disposns and L of C, but adverse weather conditions are restricting full-scale air support.

(c) MILNE BAY

Mopping up of small Japanese parties is still continuing in this area, but in the main, the action can be considered closed.

(d) RABAUL

Night 8/9 Oct - A full scale attack by Allied bombers was made on targets in the RABAUL area on the night 8/9 Oct. Bombs burst near EAST and NORTH end of Harbour, and hits were observed on the coaling jetty, the military camp along Maleguna Avenue, a bomb and fuel dump, BP's store and generally in the Chinatown area. Fierce fires were started which on the return journey of the A/C were visible for 80 miles.

9 Oct - An Allied recon A/C over RABAUL shot down two of three intercepting Zeros.

On the night of 12/13 Oct, our A/C again attacked targets on the GAZELLE PENINSULAR. Demolition bombs were dropped on VUNAKANAU and LAKUNAI Aerodromes, causing deep holes in runways and some hits amongst desperate Japanese A/C. A double explosion was noticed at VUNAKANAU, causing a large fire.

There are no further indications of much Japanese activity in the GASMATA Area, but it is interesting to note that what appears to be a strip drone is under construction in the ARAWA district, near ARAWA Plantation, approx 80 miles WEST of GASMATA. There is a very good sheltered anchorage at ARAWA, and it is possible that Japanese may develop this site in favour of the GASMATA Area, which offers little shelter to ships above the lugger tonnage.

3 SOLOMONS

During the period under review, Japanese naval forces have been concentrated in the GUADALCANAL-TULAGI Area on various Japanese held SOUTH PACIFIC bases, and notwithstanding heavy naval and air losses, have managed to land some Japanese tps and arty on the NORTH end of GUADALCANAL Island.

Enemy bombers with heavy fighter escort, despite heavy losses, have made repeated attempts to neutralise the Allied strip drone on GUADALCANAL Island.

On the night 11 Oct, an Allied naval force surprised large enemy convoy en route to GUADALCANAL, in a posn approx 6 miles WEST of SAVO Island.

The advantage was with the Allied forces, and enemy losses are believed to have been -

4 possibly 5 destroyers,
1 " 2 cruisers and
1 tpt sunk.

By sunset on 13 Oct, enemy shore based tps brought arty into range of Allied defence posns in the LUNGA area on GUADALCANAL and commenced bombardment of the area. On the night 13/14 Oct, enemy A/C attacked the strip drome on four separate occasions and enemy losses were 9 bombers and three zeros shot down, whilst one bomber was seen to be smoking.

At dawn on 15 Oct, further Japanese tps, supported by several combat naval units, were landed to the WEST of KUKUMBONA (approx 10 miles WEST of LUNGA POINT)

Allied A/C attacked the Japanese naval defence force in the vicinity NORTH WEST of GUADALCANAL and direct bomb hits were observed on many ships. One battleship was crippled and two tpts left burning.

During the afternoon, two flights of enemy bombers approached GUADALCANAL. The first flight comprised 27, with by Fighter escort, and the second flight consisted of 30 to 40 bombers. No further report has been received.

4 NEW HEBRIDES

At Midnight on the night 14/15 Oct, a probable enemy submarine shelled Allied airfield in PALILULO BAY (EAST coast ESPIRITO SANCTO Is, NEW HEBRIDES) for five minutes.

5 TIMOR

On 10 Aug, a number of Japanese tps were landed on the SOUTH coast at BEGO and SUA I. Co-inciding with this landing, approx one Japanese bn pushed EASTwards from ATAMBOEA, whilst another smaller force left TOBAKI area in DUTCH TIMOR, passed through Allied posns near TIMOLIAR and crossed the Dutch-Portuguese border.

These three parties are thught to have linked up and made DILLI their RV. Japanese losses were considerable and Allied losses were slight.

The Japanese forces apparently were prepared to meet a strong Allied force, but, after 8-10 days, from the beginning of the push, made haste back to DILLI and/or ATAMBOEA without having contracted our main force.

During the action commencing 10 Aug, Allied Air Force gave maximum support by bombing Japanese-occupied villages and straffing rds, whilst one tp was sunk at BEGO and at least two other vessels damaged.

On 1 Sep another Japanese expeditionary force of 450 tps left DILLI and passed through AILEU to MOABISSE. This party was joined a few days later by reinfts, increasing the force to an approx strength of 1500. From MOABISSE a strong force pushed SOUTH to AINARO which was occupied after we had inflicted losses on the enemy.

Another party, approx 500 in strength, advanced SE towards SAME and was engaged by a det of our tps on KABLAK Ridge, who again inflicted many casualties without losses to themselves.

On reaching same, 150 Japanese tps pushed on to the SOUTH coast through FATAQUAC, and, after reaching BETANO on 1 Oct, turned NE towards AINARO. These Japanese parties burned down the native villages they passed through possibly as a warning or as a reprisal for any help which may have been given our tps in the past.

BY 4 Oct, all Japanese tps had passed through AINARO, whilst the main Japanese body of some 700 tps left MOABISSE for DILLI (after having left small garrisons at MOABISSE and AILEU on 5 Oct).

On 13 Oct, the enemy strength at AILEU was estimated at 600 , and on 14 Oct 200 Japanese entered MOABISSE.

No further activity is reported.

Japanese patrol or foraging parties are seldom less than 100 strong, and they will open fire with all available weapons upon the slightest provocation, thus demonstrating their constant fear of ambush by Allied guerilla tps.

DISTRIBUTION

7 Aust Inf Bn	5	108 L A D	1
8 Aust Inf Bn	5	K Séc Sigs	1
19 Aust MG Bn	5	Bde HQ	2
14 A/Tk Bty	1	2/12 Fd Amb	1
42 Fd Bty	2	War Diary	2
23 Fd Coy	2	File	1

SUBJECT:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CO-ORDINATION

MINUTE PAPER

KOKODA

SIBUYAVA

BINDWA

TRIPLETONS

STANLEY RANGE

WETTER CK

GOWI

SUMMIT

TRAIL

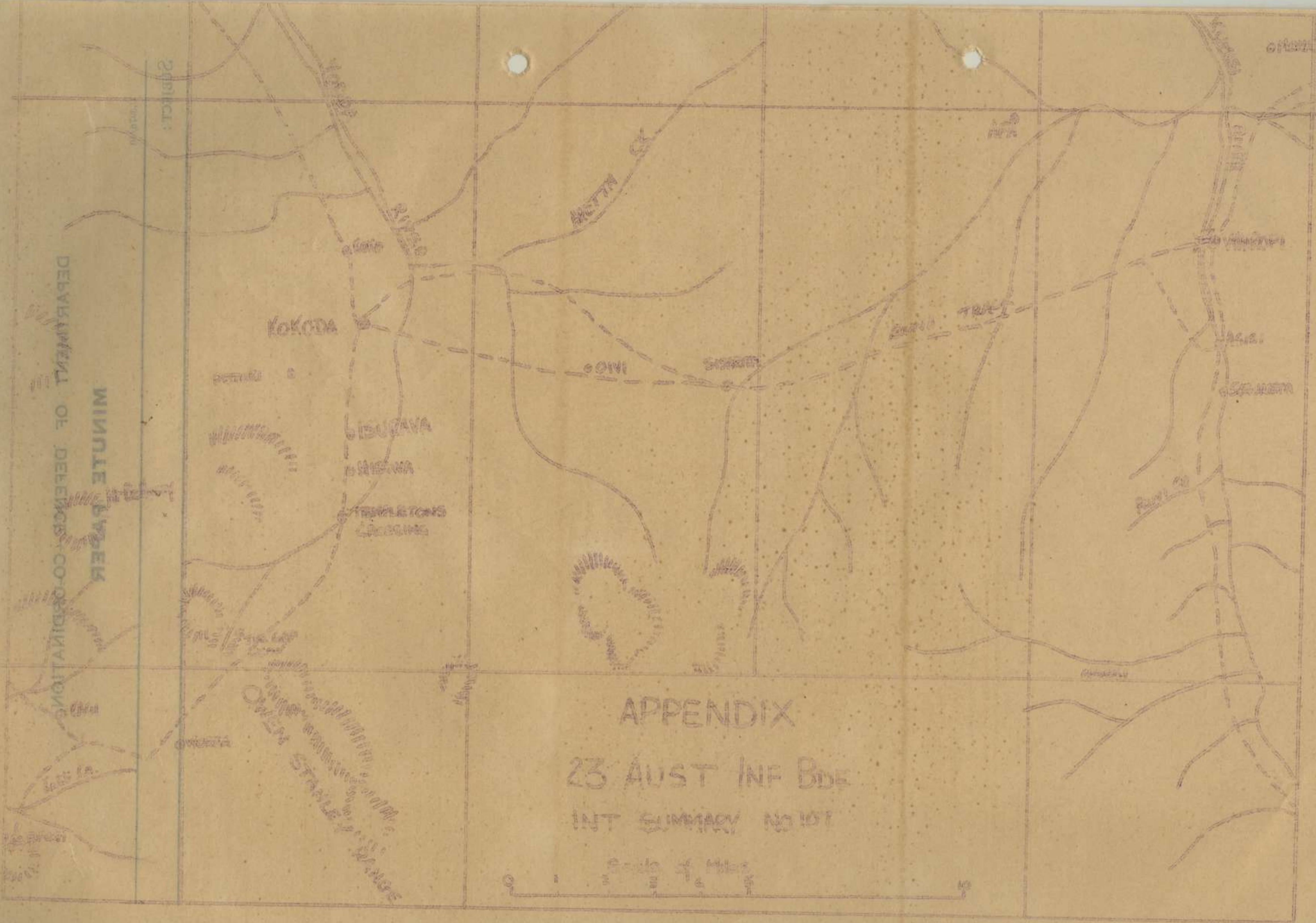
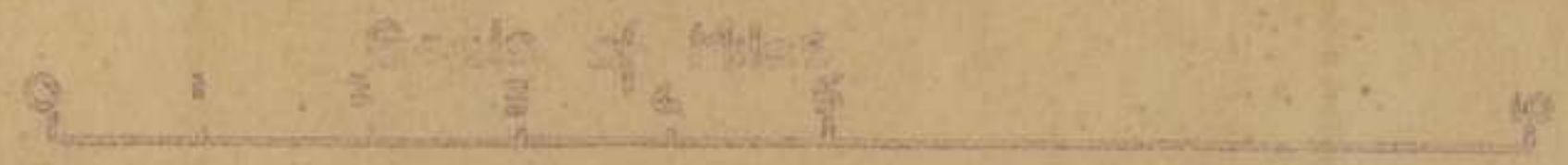
JAGS

SUMMIT

APPENDIX

23 AUST INF BDE

INT SUMMARY NO 101



APPX 5

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NT FORCE EXERCISE No.5

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1140 hrs 19 Oct '42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct '42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			Ref Maps DARWIN, one inch, sheets 5 and 6; BATCHELOR one inch.	
	19 Oct '42	1140	N.T. Force HQ reported enemy convoy approx 60 miles NW of CHARLES POINT. Heavy rain reduced visibility, and number in convoy and speed were unascertained by air recce up to 1030 hrs.	
			all units ordered to be on two hours notice to move.	
		1206	Warning is given to units in 23 Bde	
		1640	HQ 23 Bde issued O.O.5 wherein info was given that enemy was reported nearing BYNOE HARBOUR	see appx attached
		1930	NT Force HQ put units on one half hours notice to move. Air recce failed to locate enemy ships due to bad visibility.	
		2040	HQ 23 Bde moved out in accordance with O.O.5	
		2100	HQ 23 Bde opened at 083722	
		2100	7 Bde was in ^{in formation} in formation at concentration area with its	

D.3485/5.39.—C.4783.

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1100 hrs 19 Oct '42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct '42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			Bn HQ at 049723	
	19 Oct 42	2120	8 Bn was in posn in diamond formation in area 066727	
		2145	19 MG Bn advised being in posn in diamond formation in vicinity of 089729	
		2145	all units of 23 Bde ordered to stand to arms 0545 hrs 20 Oct '42	
		2241	all units of 23 Bde informed of reported enemy landing at BYNOE BAY and movement ^{movement} EAST. 23 Bde ordered to advance WEST - S.T. 0630 hrs 20 Oct '42	
		2245	NT FORCE HQ informed of posns occupied by 23 Bde	

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1140 hrs 19 Oct 42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	19 Oct 42	2159	HQ NT FORCE scheduled to open at CK and Ry junc 2 mls NE SOUTHPORT STA	
	20 Oct 42	0220	Information from HQ NT FORCE, originated at 0040 hrs, stated that night air recce revealed no shipping in ANSON BAY area. It was considered, though not confirmed, that enemy had landed between BYNOE BAY and SHOAL BAY. 23 Bde were ordered to occupy def. posn astride SOUTHPORT rd facing WEST with fwd tps two miles EAST of SOUTHPORT STA.	
		0630	NIL enemy activity reported ^{in 23 Bde area.} 23 Bde commenced advance WEST.	
		0650	air recce report received of tp movements on BYNOE BAY rd approx 10 mls WEST SOUTHPORT STA,	

NT Force Exercise No 5.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1140 hrs 19 Oct 42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 Oct 42		but numbers of part of fwd element unknown. 23 Bde ordered to advance WEST and attack enemy when found. 19 Bde to remain present posn prepared to support 23 Bde	
		0725	23 Bde HQ moved out to occupy posn 058726	
		0725	7 Bn encountered enemy at map ref 009719	
		0730	8 Bn in posn in area 039719	
		0735	19 MG Bn took up posn ^{in vicinity of} at 060725	
		0755	8 Bn received order to commence encircling movement at 0815 hrs and strike at enemy from NORTH at track 975718, to hold track with one Coy and move EAST against enemy with remainder of Bn.	
		0835	7 Bn contacted enemy rd block at 009719	

~~WAR DIARY~~ OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 110 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1100 hrs 19 Oct '42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct '42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			and commenced to encircle this point. Enemy strength estimated one bn.	
	20 Oct '42	0915	7 Bn pressing enemy strongly at 400 yds WEST of SOUTHPORT STA. Artillery fire on enemy position but 7 Bn temporarily held up.	
		0936	7 Bn still maintain pressure. Casualties - 20% of D Coy. Enemy loss two pls wiped out.	
		0945	Enemy appears ^{to 7 Bn} to be withdrawing 500 yds WEST of SOUTHPORT STA.	
		xx 1025	19 MG Bn flank patrols report NIL enemy activity. W.H. at 062725 was being picqueted.	
		1025	8 Bn continuing encircling most had reached 001728	
		x 1012	Two pls 8 Bn contacted enemy outpost at 978722 which was wiped out. Bn pushed on to road.	
		xx 1022	Leading Coy 8 Bn contacted enemy engs on road at 980719. Enemy withdrawn EAST. 20 enemy casualties. A, B, C Coys ^{advanced} EAST along road. D Coy took up posn at 974718.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1100 hrs 19 Oct '42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct '42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 Oct '42	1040	19 MG Bn protective patrols were being maintained.	
		1045	8 Bn located one enemy bn in square 980 710, and captured one tp enemy arty. Our fwd elements were held up by arty fire, but with own arty support A and C coys were outflanking to NORTH and SOUTH	
			At this stage of Bde Comd gave his opinion that this phase of action was ^{was} over since 8 Bn had made contact with main body of enemy, established as 10 Bn, from EAST, and 7 Bn had advanced WEST against the same enemy bn.	
		1150	7 Bn on move to take up posn at 001712	
		1215	23 Bde o.a.b issued to units reporting further enemy landing at DALY RIVER. Bde was ordered to move to RUM JUNGLE STA, S.T. not before 1230 hrs.	see appx attached

~~WAR DIARY~~ or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

NT Force
Exercise No 5

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1400 hrs 19 Oct '42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct '42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 Oct '42	1220	8 Am was in posn at 002720 ready to move SOUTH along track	
		1240	Move SOUTH along track commenced in following order - 7 Am, 8 Am, 19 MG Am	
		1400	HQ 23 Bde closed location to move in bounds SOUTH along ref track	
		1443	HQ 23 Bde halted temporarily at 995717	
		1545	HQ 23 Bde moved along track from 995717	
		1550	19 MG Am had reached point 958665	
		1615	HQ 23 Bde halted until 1700 hrs at 960672 in rear of rear bn. 7 Am had reached 970619	
		1635	B Ech was established at *978680.	
		1650	19 MG Am were at 970605	

~~WAR DIARY~~ or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1400 hrs 19 Oct 42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 Oct 42	1727	8 Bn halted at 969600. I was to be expected to continue advance at 1745 hrs.	
		1800	HQ 23 Bde halted at 970601 until 1915 hrs	
		1810	Information given that as from 2000 hrs as yet to be under comd 7 Bn.	
		1820	19 MG Bn were at a point 8.8 mls along rd SOUTH of SOUTHPORT STA. until 1915 hrs.	
		1856	7 Bn had reached 969571, 8 Bn were at 969583. Units were halted until 1915 hrs.	
		1915	HQ 23 Bde remained at 970601 until 2100 hrs.	
		2002	all units were ordered to stand to arms at 0600 to 0700 hrs 21 Oct 42. B Ech required to deliver breakfast to units at 0720 hrs	
		2140	HQ 23 Bde arrived at 969522 to remain until	

2300 hrs
7 Bn located at 969500

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ, 23 Aust Inf Bde.

Date and Time.—From 1400 hrs 19 Oct 42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 Oct 42	2245	HQ 23 Bde closed its location and moved SOUTH	
		2315	Units were in position at following locations:- HQ 23 Bde 969515, ^{19MG} 7 Bn 969511, 8 Bn 969499 1945 Bn 7 Bn 970476.	
	21 Oct 42	0700	8 Bn advised front all clear of Bde Comd went fwd with LOS.	
		0830	7 Bn advanced SOUTH and were in position at 971452 at 0855 hrs.	
		0915	7 Bn contacted enemy and were holding position	
		0925	8 Bn and 19MG Bn were ordered to withdraw immediately	
		0935	7 Bn reported enemy appeared to be attempting encircling move on LEFT flank. Our arty concentration brought down on enemy on road	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde.

Date and Time.—From 1100 hrs 19 Oct 42 To 1100 hrs 22 Oct 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 Oct '42	1010	Seven out of A/C seen to be dive bombing enemy concentrations	
		1020	NT Force HQ ^{was} was advised that 7 Bn was holding enemy to permit withdrawal of 8 Bn to 969519 and 19 MG Bn to 969538. 7 Bn was then to withdraw to 968558. HQ 23 Bde had established at 967538	
		1035	7 Bn reported to be withdrawing NORTH fighting rear guard action 8 Bn and 19 MG Bn were moving into positions indicated at 0925 hrs.	
		1045	19 MG Bn had occupied posn 969538. Two troops of How arty had occupied posns in area in support of 8 Bn	
		1100	8 Bn defensive posns established at 1100 hrs	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1140 hrs 19 Oct 42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 Oct '42	1115	Two elements of 7 Bn reported to be within 3/4 mile of 23 Bde HQ location	
		1140	Field sketch of disposition of 8 Bn received	
		1143	Two tps of 19 Bde reported to be 3 miles NORTH of 23 Bde HQ location at 1130 hrs.	
		1152	7 Bn was moving through 8 Bn positions	
		1215	7 Bn two elements were passing through HQ 23 Bde position in their withdrawal	
		1230	Orders 8 Bn ordered to move patrols SOUTH and endeavour to contact enemy.	
		1250	7 Bn was in position at 968558 with Bn HQ at 962550	
		1306	Exercise was suspended until 1600 hrs and all tps required to rest.	
		1515	all tps incl arty ordered to move NORTH to new positions at 1540 hrs. Searching tps to commence at 1600 hrs 8 Bn NOT to await contact with enemy.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 1140 hrs 19 Oct '42 To 1400 hrs 22 Oct '42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 Oct '42	1540	Move NORTH commenced to following posts:- 7 Bn 985695, 8 Bn 998710, 19 MG Bn 968678,	
		1600	HQ 23 Bde closed and moved NORTH	
		1700	NT Force HQ advised GOC now at Exercise HQ.	
		1745	HQ 23 Bde opened new location at 985695	
		1835	19 MG Bn arrived and were in post in vicinity of 968678.	
		1855	7 Bn established diamond formation around HQ	
			23 Bde post with Bn HQ at 993690.	
		2030	HQ 23 Bde issued o.o.g to all units informing them that enemy was contained SOUTH of DARWIN RIVER STA by 19 Bde, and that 23 Bde would move to camp, ST 0730 hrs, 22 Oct '42, to block NA rd.	see appa attached
		2036	Units are ordered to stand to arms from 0600 to 0700 hrs 22 Oct '42.	
		2120	8 Bn was in post at 998710 in diamond formation	

0.06

6

Infantry

Every this area destroyed
with landing Wharton Lakes

DALY Rn.

nowhere known to River Jungle
Sta

Infantry

28. The cell, the will move
by route marked to River Jungle Sta

Infantry

Order of march 7th 8th 19th

Rn
Route

Rly back

SP

Southport Sta.

ST

When ordered by L.O.

not before 1700 hrs
Hall's - 10 min to the - from 1815-1915
Pom to be occurred

7 Rn head 1 mi NORTH
of River Jungle Sta - formation.

8 Rn 1000 yds gap

19 Rn 1000 yds gap

only - In St 7 Rn in
remain under cover for
more.

Engs remain under cover
medical Lt Col Sec moved all
Bds 1000

Form 1043-4-41 (Rev. 10-1-41)

MESSAGE FORM

No of Groups

GR.

Serial No.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

Author

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN TO
OUT

TO
FROM

P. Ech. - move to area 980678 under order at 1400 hr

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

Interim BU No done 1400 hr hand over + news by hand via 19th Bn W/T link

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 CYPHER

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SIGNED

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

FOR EXERCISE

23 Aust Inf Bde 007

SECRET
Copy No 6
21 Oct 42

Ref Map DARWIN & ENVIRONS
1 in - 1 Mile Sheet 5

1. INFORMATION Remaining enemy ~~is~~ are contained SOUTH of DARWIN River Sta by 19 Aust Inf Bde.
2. INTENTION 23 Aust Inf Bde will move to camp area to block NA Rd.

3. METHOD MARCH TABLE

SERIAL No	UNIT	ROUTE	S.P.	S.T.
1	23 Bde HQ	BRODRIBB HY	Bde Out Gate	0730
2	42 Fd Bty	Ry Track SOUTHPORT Rd	SOUTH edge 7 Bn perimeter	0750
3	7 Bn	Ry track SOUTHPORT Rd	NORTH edge Bn perimeter	0810
4	19 MG Bn	Ry track BYNOE BAY Rd	NORTH edge Bn perimeter	0815
5(A)	8 Bn marching tps	Cross country to BRODRIBB Hy	SOUTH edge Bn perimeter	0810
5(B)	8 Bn tpt	Ry track BRODRIBB Hy	SOUTH edge Bn perimeter	0845

4. Bn tpt will move with Bns till rd ahead is clear, when it will move/ordered by respective Cos. 8 Bn will close tpt with marching tps on BRODRIBB Hy.
5. ADM B Edh reverts to and joins units at 0700 hrs 22 Oct.
6. MEDICAL Dets move with Bns until return to Bn lines.
7. WATER WP 959646 closes 1000 hrs 22 Oct.
8. INTERCOMN Bde HQ closes 0730 present location reopens camp site
9. Units report when return to lines.

10. ACK.

SIGNED AT
ISSUED TO Sigs.....
DISTRIBUTION

[Signature]
Major
BM 23 Aust Inf Bde. AIF

ACK

- 2025 ✓ 42 Fd Bty
- 2110 ✓ 7 Aust Inf Bn
- 2220 ✓ 8 Aust Inf Bn
- 2137 ✓ 19 Aust MG Bn
- 2125 ✓ Bde B Ech
- File
- War Diary

for exercise

23 Aust Inf Bde

Distances covered by marching troops during Force Exercise No 5.

Ref. Maps: DARWIN & ENVIRONS sheet 5, 1" to 1 ml; BATCHELOR 1" to 1 ml

Time & Date	7 Bn	8 Bn	19 MG Bn
1800 - 2250 hrs <u>19 Oct '42</u>	Camp site to 046722 4½ mls	Camp site to 066727 8½ mls	Camp site to 083728 7½ mls
0630 - 2220 hrs <u>20 Oct '42</u>	046722 to 972440 20 "	066727 to 971452 (incl encircling moat) 24 "	083728 to 970460 18½ "
0830 - 2120 hrs <u>21 Oct '42</u>	972440 to 975686 16½ mls	971452 to 984696 16½ "	970460 to 965674 15 "
0800 - 1400 hrs <u>22 Oct '42</u>	975686 to Camp site, moving cross-country 9 "	984696 to Camp site 8½ "	965674 to Camp site 11 "
<u>Total distance covered in 68 hrs</u>	<u>50 mls</u>	<u>57½ mls</u>	<u>52 mls</u>

Miles calculated from 1" to 1 mile maps

Robert M. Lane
10. 23 Aust Inf Bde
Lieut

19 Oct 42

Appx 5

23 AUST INF BDE OO 5Ref Map : DARWIN & ENVIRONS SHEET 5, 1" - 1^m

- INFM
1. Enemy convoy reported nearing BYNOE HARBOUR. No further infm re strength.
 2. Field Force, less 3 Aust Inf Bde, to concentrate area of SOUTHPORT RD & NORTH AUST RD junc with 23 Aust Inf Bde furthest WEST, to be prepared to adv when enemy landing and approach is ascertained.

INTENTION

3. 23 Aust Inf Bde and att tps will concentrate vicinity of WH 060738.

METHOD

4. Areas

7 Bn 050724	formation Y
8 Bn 066727	" diamond
19 MG Bn 087728	" diamond
5. Arty One tp 42 Fd Bty under comd each of 7 Bn & 8 Bn after arrival at area.
6. Engrs One sub-sec under comd each Bn from 1700 hrs.
7. Movement to areas as per att march table Appx A.


ADM

8. Reconnaissance. Recce parties will move in adv of main body. Bde HQ recce party will leave with 19 MG Bn re allotment of dispersal area.
9. Control. Sec NT Force Pro Coy will maintain patrols on main rd from 42 mile to 30 mile and a control post at junc main rd - SOUTHPORT RD. Sec comd will report to Bde HQ at conclusion of move.
10. Water. Water will be drawn from main pipe line during first phase of exercise and WP est by 23 Fd Coy in later stages.
11. Amn. All ball amn to be withdrawn prior to exercise. 1000 rds per MMG and LMG and 50 rds per man will be carried in unit tpt.
Amn veh from 7 & 8 Bns report Bde HQ by 1900 hrs 19 Oct 42.
12. POL. Units will carry normal reserve plus 50 miles per veh. PP notified when establish.
13. SUP. As previously arranged.
14. Medical. 1 NCO and 8 OR, one amb and 3 OR from 2/12 Fd Amb will report to each bn by 1700 hrs. They will be rationed by respective bns.
Lt Mob Sec 2/12 Fd Amb will be att to Bde HQ from 1900 hrs 19 Oct 42.
15. Rec. 108 LAD present location 114695
236 LAD with Bde B Ech 110720

INTERCOM:

16. Bde HQ with 19 MG Bn at 083722 opens 2100 hrs.
17. Wireless. W/T link each Bn. Line when in concentration areas.
18. S.O.S. Red Green Red

ACK

Signed at 1600 hrs
Issued through Sigs.

Major
BM 23 Aust Inf Bde
DISTRIBUTION

	Copy No		Copy No
42 Fd Bty	1	2/12 Fd Amb	9
14 A Tk Bty	2	NT Force Pro Coy	10
K Sec Sigs NT Force	3	Comd	11
1 Sec 23 Fd Bty	4	BM	12
7 Aust Inf Bn	5	SC	13
8 Aust Inf Bn	6	TO	14
19 Aust MG Bn	7	IO	15
108 LAD	8	Bde ASC Offr	16
		File	17
		War Diary	18/19

MARCH TABLE

ROUTE Main Rd - SOUTHPORT RD to concentration area.

CONTROL Check Post junc main rd SOUTHPORT Rd.

HALTS 10 minutes to the hour for marching tps.

Serial No	Unit	S.P.	S.T.	Head of col Past check Post	Tail of col Past check Post	Concentration Area
1	7 Bn Gp	Unit lines	Approx 1900	1920	1935	050724
2	8 Bn Gp	Unit lines	Approx 1745	1950	2005	066727
3	19 Bn Gp	Unit lines	Approx 1815	2015	2025	084729

CONVOY

4	OP HQ 23 Bde	Bde HQ	2040	2050	2057	Within 19 Bn perimeter
5.	42 Rd Bty less 1 tp	Bty Lines	2105	2110	2120	As ordered by BC vide OO § para 5

B Ech will move to dispersal area 110720 adjacent to SOUTHPORT Main Rd junc where it will come under Bde Control. OC Bde "B" Ech BASCO

Order of movement as follows :--

Serial No	Unit	Veh.	S.P.	S. T.	Check Post	Tail past check post
6	23 Bde HQ	Bde HQ 6 K Sec 2 A Tk 1 Engrs 1	Unit lines	2120	2130	2140
7	7 Bn	10	Unit lines	2135	2140	2150
8.	8 Bn	9	Unit lines	2125	2150	2157
9	19 Bn	B ech 10 236 LAD 5	Unit lines	2140	2200	2210
10	42 Bty	2	Unit lines	2210	2215	2217

Speed and Density 10 vtm
 15 mph Main Rd 8 on tracks.

War Diary

23 Aust Inf Bde
23 Oct 42

Appx. T

23 AUST INF BDE TRG EXERCISE No 6

Ref Map DARWIN & ENVIRONS
Sheet 6 1 in - 1 ml

1. OBJECT To practise Bns in attack and def with actual arty sp fire.
2. PLACE The exercise will be held in the area of ACACIA GAP RD from 144696 to 248687 and area SOUTH to MANTON RIVER, on 24 Oct 42.
3. TPS TAKING PART 7 Bn, 8 Bn, 42 Fd Bty, det of K Sec Sigs.
4. DIRECTOR Lt-Col MONTGOMERY, A/Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde.
5. UMPIRES & SAFETY OFFRS Chief Umpire - Major T.F. DAVIES, BM 23 Aust Inf Bde.
Umpires and Safety Offrs will be provided :--
Inf - 6 Offrs 19 MG Bn
Arty - as arranged by 42 Fd Bty.
6. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
 - (a) All small arms weapons will be unloaded and magazines checked to see that they are empty.
 - (b) NO arty fire will be permitted until the senior Bn umpire of the Bn involved indicates to the arty F O O that inf are outside the danger area.
 - (c) HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde will arrange to fence danger area of targets across line of inf adv.
 - (d) Arty safety offrs will check laying of guns before firing.
7. TIMES Units will occupy posns as per opening situation by 1130 hrs 24 Oct. Exercise will terminate in the ACACIA GAP Area not later than 2200 hrs 24 Oct.
8. MEALS Lunch will be carried. Evening meal by hot box from CAMP areas to arrive at ACACIA GAP 1800 hrs.
9. OPENING SITUATION

23 Aust Inf Bde Gp, less 19 Aust MG Bn, is occupying a posn covering Pl47 drome.

Bns are located - 7 Bn 165698
8 Bn 145695

42 Fd Bty is under comd, and one how tp is in posn within each Bn area under Bn comd.

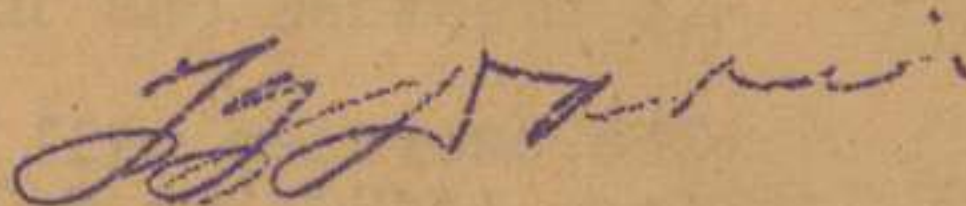
Bde HQ are located at 157696. At 1145 hrs 24 Oct infn, timed 0200 hrs, revealed that enemy force of about 1500 men was located at HUMPTY DOO and had commenced moving SOUTH towards ACACIA GAP.
The Bde Comd decided to move his force to ACACIA GAP and take up a posn to deny passage to the enemy.

His orders included the following :--

 - (a) Order of march 7 Bn with under comd one how tp 42 Fd Bty
Bde HQ
8 Bn with under comd one how tp 42 Fd Bty
 - (b) S P Creek - track junc 167698
 - (c) Start time 1200 hrs

(d) Area to be occupied at 7 Bn 223676
ACACIA GAP 8 Bn 228677

(e) Arty Reverts to Bde control after arrival of
Bde at ACACIA GAP



Major
BM 23 Aust Inf Bde. AIF

DISTRIBUTION

		Copies
42 Fd Bty	3	"
K Sec Sigs	1	"
7 Aust Inf Bn	1	"
8 Aust Inf Bn	1	"
Umpires	6	"
Chief umpire	1	"
Comd	1	"
SC	1	"
File	1	"
War Diary	2	"

FORECAST OF EVENTS

Time	Event	Action to be taken	Instns for Umpires
1200 hrs	Leading tps of 7 Bn cross creek at 166698		
1212 hrs	Leading tps of 7 Bn held up at 173697 by enemy fire from posn astride track about 400 yds EAST. Enemy estimated about 600 men.	CO 7 Bn orders leading Coy to hold, two coys to attack on right <i>left</i> flank. Route 37° 800 yds 101° 1650 " 215° 33 ° 800 " SP 170697 Arty to bring down concentration area 178696 until 1300 hrs.	Umpires to prevent leading tps from moving further EAST than NORTH-SOUTH line through 173697
1220 hrs	Two coys 7 Bn commence flanking move.		Umpires to ensure that no tps move on line SOUTH of route during second leg.
1222 hrs	Bde Comd orders 8 Bn to make wide encircling move on right flank, to cut rd at ROCKY LEDGE 211623, 8 Bn then to hold rd with one coy, remainder to move to hold EAST and ACACIA GAP area 228677	CO issues orders for move of Bn & arty tp across country as follows :- 135° 2200 yds 98° 3900 " 351° 1100 "	Umpires will be stationed at 212672 to check route before third leg.
1225 hrs	7 Bn arty tp commence firing.		Arty safety offr check before firing.
1235 hrs	8 Bn commence move.	SP to be track junc 157694.	Umpires to check on bearings & distance.
1300 hrs	7 Bn arty close firing.	7 Bn outflanking coys NOT to proceed on third leg before this hour.	Umpires to stop coys moving on 3 rd leg before 1300 hrs.
1310 hrs	7 Bn outflanking coys reach rd at 187694.	One pl to hold & patrol EAST, remainder of force drive WEST along track to enemy's rear.	
1405 hrs	8 Bn reach track 212672 and are contacted by small enemy patrol who withdraw in a northerly direction. Bn moves 200 yds on third leg of route, encounter MG fire from NORTH.		
1410 hrs	Recce reveals enemy about 300 men in posn at ROCKY LEDGE 211682.	CO decides to attack with arty sp.	Umpires stop further adv of Bn until arty report sign complete.
1425 hrs	8 Bn commences advance arty concentration commence.		
1430 hrs	Arty concentration finish.		

Time	Event	Action to be taken	Instns for Umpires
1435 hrs	8 Bn assault enemy posn		
1445 hrs	Posn captured by 8 Bn	One coy holds rd and patrols WEST, remainder of Bn make to ACACIA GAP.	
1445 hrs	7 Bn finally clear their area of enemy.		
1455 hrs	8 Bn less one coy commences move to ACACIA GAP.		
1500 hrs	7 Bn resume move to ACACIA GAP.		
1540 hrs	8 Bn arrives in posn.	Occupy Bn area astride track.	Leading tps NOT to proceed further EAST than 234681.
1600 hrs	8 Bn advised 7 Bn destroyed enemy	CO orders det coy to rejoin Bn.	
1630 hrs	7 Bn arrives in ACACIA GAP and takes up posn area 223676.		
1635 hrs	Arty reverts to Comd Bde.		
1645 hrs	Det coy 8 Bn rejoins Bn.		
1700 hrs	Bde Comd lays down Bty DF task as area track-hill 237686.	Arty commander sign. <i>commence sign</i>	Fwd tps 8 Bn move back 300 yds until sign completed. <i>sign</i>
1915 hrs	Stand to Arms.		
2015 hrs	Stand down.		
2035 hrs	SOS signal fired by left fwd coy 8 Bn (Red Green Red)	Arty open fire on DF task	Umpires ensure NO patrols etc, are fwd of DLS after 1915 hrs by check with coy comds.
2050 hrs	Right fwd coy report enemy movement on river flats.	Arty put down tp concentration.	
2100 hrs	Exercise Ends.		

By Exam

UMPIRES REPORT 23 Bde Ex No.6
(Umpires with 7 Aust Inf Bn)

LOG. No record of log is submitted, as times laid down by Forecast of Events were strictly as far as Inf units were concerned. The only delays in the programme being caused by Arty movement.

TIMINGS. The timings of inf movement laid down in forecast were excellent. Each move was planned to allow sufficient time to cover required distances.

BEARINGS. Checked and all correct. There was a tendency to swing L. during first leg of 7 Bn outflanking movement, but this was corrected immediately by OC "B" Coy.

MORALE. Excellent.

INFORMATION. As is usual on all exercises the men generally NOT being kept informed of events - and to them the exercise is merely the task of covering an area by route march.

INTERCOM. The communication within the Bn are worthy of special mention. Maintenance of sets and training of Sig personnel is apparent.

ARTY CO-OPERATION. No Inf representative with F.O.O.

*Reason / art 700
moral in unreal
manner - well
ahead of leading inf.*

FIRST TASK - Observation. Impossible to observe effects of fire from O.P. although established only 400 x from target area.

L.B.

25 Oct 42

HQ 23 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE.	
C.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Comd.	<i>[Signature]</i>
B.M.	<i>[Signature]</i>
S.C.	
T.O.	
L.O.	

A.R. Wood

Major

19 Aust MG Bn

HQ 23 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE.
RECEIVED
26 Oct 42
0900
[Signature]
S. 289 123

Information contained in this document is not to be communicated either directly or indirectly to the press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's Services.

Serial No 15
Nos 85 - 87

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I
by

by COL. K.E. MONTGOMERY
Adm Comd 85 Aust Inf Bde

In the field
24 Oct 42

85. <u>DUTY OFFICERS</u>			
	Saturday	24 Oct 42	Capt N.F. PROSSOR
	Sunday	25 Oct 42	Lieut L.G. POWELL
	Monday	26 Oct 42	Capt K.W. TRASDALE
	Tuesday	27 Oct 42	Lieut A.J. FITZGERALD
	Wednesday	28 Oct 42	Lieut R.T.M. ROSE
	Thursday	29 Oct 42	Capt N.F. PROSSOR
	Friday	30 Oct 42	Lieut L.G. POWELL

86. SECURITY OF INFORMATION
(ORD 2 448)

There is an increasing tendency for civilians to interrogate members of the Allied armed forces when the latter are on leave, travelling on duty, etc.

If not checked, this practice, although generally inspired by idle curiosity, may lead to the disclosure of much information of value to the enemy, and will facilitate the task of enemy spies.

All ranks will be instructed that, in addition to refusing to disclose information to civilians, they should endeavour to obtain the names and addresses of any questioners and report same to the appropriate officer of their unit.

Security Service have undertaken to investigate immediately the bona fides of any inquisitive civilians whose names and addresses are supplied.

87. PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING CASUALTIES
(ORD A 439)

Private cables and telegrams reporting battle or other casualties are prohibited. In letters, no reference is to be made to any such casualty until after a period of one month from the date of its occurrence.

The prohibition and restriction imposed by para 1 hereof are not applicable to communications sent by a member relative to a casualty sustained by himself.

This order has been dictated by motives of consideration for the feelings of the relatives of members of the forces who, in many instances, have been caused unnecessary suffering and suspense through information contained in private correspondence from operational areas and which, in some cases, has proved to be inaccurate.

M. Downs Captain
80 25 Aust Inf Bde. AIF.

DISTRIBUTION "A"

NOTICE

Received from Bde HQ Auxiliary:--
100 lb Fruit cake
Parcel of Magazines and Periodicals
Thanks have been conveyed to the Auxiliary on behalf of Bde personnel.

Appx V.

23 AUST INF BDE TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 31 OCT 42

24 Oct 42

Ref Map DARWIN and ENVIRONS 1 in - 1 mile

Unit	Subject	Date	Time	S P or Firing Pt	Route or Direction	Area	Type of Practice & Remarks
7 Aust Inf Bn	Hardening week by night	26 Oct	2000 hrs	-	-	7 Bn - SOUTHPORT RD BYNOE RD Area	Syllabus, all units :- Night 1. Route March 25 miles " 3. " " 25 " " 5. " " 20 " incl Bn exercises. 2.) Indiv Trg, Bayonet Trg, 4.) Fdcraft, Weapon Trg, Battle procedure, Admin.
8 Aust Inf Bn		31 Oct	0600 hrs			8 Bn - BRODRIBB BY BANTON RIVER track area	
19 Aust MG Bn					19 MG Bn - BYNOE RD MAIN RD, 22 mile area		

DISTRIBUTION HQ WF Force (2)
 War Diary (2)
 File

[Signature] Lt-Col
 Adm Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde AIF

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

APPX W
War Diary

Information contained in this document is not to be communicated either directly or indirectly to the press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's Services.

Serial No 15
Nos 88 - 89

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDER PART I

by
Lt-Col K.H. MONTGOMERY
Adm Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde.

In the Field
31 Oct 42

88. <u>DUTY OFFICERS</u>	Saturday	31 Oct 42	Capt K.W. TEASDALE
	Sunday	1 Nov 42	Lieut A.H. WILD
	Monday	2 Nov 42	Lieut A.J. FITZGERALD
	Tuesday	3 Nov 42	Lieut R.F.M. ROSE
	Wednesday	4 Nov 42	Capt N.F. PROSSOR
	Thursday	5 Nov 42	Lieut L.G. POWELL
	Friday	6 Nov 42	Capt K.W. TEASDALE

89. CAMP HYGIENE The effect of a lower standard of hygiene in the Bde HQ area has resulted in an increased number of flies, and the following steps will be taken to reduce this menace to health.

Personnel will ensure that all waste food or any other matter which may decompose if exposed to the air is disposed in receptacles provided.

That food tins etc are not disposed of by burying without being first thoroughly burned in unit incinerator.

M. Brown
Captain
SC 23 Aust Inf Bde. AIF.

DISTRIBUTION "A"

APPRECIATION OF SITUATION BY COMD 23 AUST INF BDE AT DARWIN
ON 28 APR 41.

1.

OBJECT

To prevent an enemy force from advancing on DARWIN or the L. of C. with the SOUTH and to defeat the force if a landing is effected. (The immediate protection of DARWIN and its installations is NOT included in the role of the Bde Gp.

FACTORS AFFECTING THE ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECT.

2.

CLIMATIC

There are two seasons in the year, - "The Wet" and "The Dry." The surface conditions are so very different during these two periods that topography must be considered separately for each.

"The Wet" approximates that part of the year from the end of NOVEMBER to the end of MARCH and during this period the rainfall recorded is between 50 and 60 inches and the country becomes impassable.

"The Dry" which extends from MARCH to NOVEMBER, except of course for the transition stages, is usually free from rain other than light showers. During this period, except for definite topographical obstacles the country can be traversed by M.T. in every direction.

Therefore, two separate plans are necessary for these two seasons.

3.

TOPOGRAPHY

It appears possible for the enemy to effect a landing and move overland toward the L. of C. at the following widely spread points -

- (a) PORT McARTHUR, near the SIR EDWARD PELLEW GROUP of ISLANDS in the GULF OF CARPENTARIA, said to be road to NEWCASTLE WATERS (Recce and Reports needed). Was used in building overland telegraph line.
- (b) ROPER RIVER - said to be navigable for 60 miles (6 ft draught) and also roads to BIRDUM and MATARANKA (Recce and Reports needed).
- (c) ALLIGATOR RIVER - maps show possible tracks to BURRUNDIE (Recce and Reports needed).
- (d) ADELAIDE RIVER - said to be navigable to shallow draught boats and possible overland routes to ADELAIDE RIVER STA (Recce and reports needed).
- (e) ANSON BAY and DALY RIVER to track leading to STAPLETON Sta just NORTH of ADELAIDE RIVER Sta (Recce and Reports needed).
- (f) QUEENS CHANNEL and VICTORIA RIVER to track leading to KATHERINE (Recce and Reports needed).

All these routes enable raids to strike at the L. of C. in our rear and may be outside the role of this Bde Gp. At the present time there are no troops allocated to the defence of the L. of C. and until such time as they are it is considered that these routes should be taken account of as the probability remains of the Bde Gp being asked to deal with them.

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These possible landing places are widely separated and involve a long L. of C. for the maintenance of any large force landed on them but they appear suitable for raiding parties - particularly A.F.Vs. Therefore need small mobile forces with a thorough knowledge of topography and tracks for each area. They should be fully mechanised and prepared to deal with A.F.Vs and have means of communication to H.Q. or Report Centre. They should have attached to them sufficient civilian guides with a thorough knowledge of water, tracks and local conditions.

4.

HOWARD RIVER to BYNOE BAY

This section, because of its close proximity to DARWIN and the Northern portion of the L. of C. must be considered in detail. It has been divided into four areas, see tracing attached as Appx I to this appreciation.

Area I.

Good roads which make it possible to move M.T. in both WET and DRY seasons.

Area is a flat table land with cliffs on the seafront approximately 40 feet high.

Therefore permanent holding force necessary.

Area II

Good landing beaches from LEANYER SWAMP to mouth of RAPID CK.

(a) "The Dry" Tracks and roads passable to M.T. in Southerly direction but movement WEST would be limited. Therefore need early information of enemy landing and a light holding force on beach area with a mob res capable of forming a covering force with prepared defence positions to prevent movement SOUTH and to form a base for launching attack to defeat forces that have landed.

(b) "The Wet" Movement by M.T. off main roads impossible, therefore unlikely that attempt will be made to land during this period but wet weather roads to STOP LINE needed so that COVERING FORCE can be moved in and maintained. Made roads beyond this STOP (A-B) LINE would aid enemies manoeuvres and make it necessary to keep a HOLDING FORCE on the beaches. Would not advise this course unless adequate personnel available to enable HOLDING FORCE to stop enemy on reaching the beach.

Area III. Consists mainly of swamp and clay pans. Flat country.

(a) "The Dry" M.T. can be moved over selected tracks in most directions.

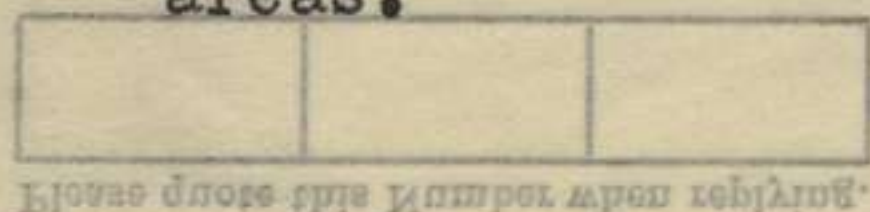
There are landing beaches dotted along the coast line but they are so widely dispersed that a HOLDING FORCE on the beaches would be a waste of personnel.

Therefore NEED mobile COVERING FORCE with thorough knowledge of topography and tracks using extensive patrolling to give early information.

(b) "The Wet" No formed roads in this area and consequently movement by M.T. and tracked vehicles impossible. Therefore most unlikely that enemy landing would be effected in this area.

Area IV.

There are no main roads or tracks on COX PENINSULA and the watercourses, all of which are tidal - would tend to restrict movement either in WET or the DRY except in a Southerly direction. The PENINSULA has a long coast line - 54 miles from WEST Pt to mouth of CHARLOTTE River and made up of many good landing beaches some of which however have cliff fronts and some mangrove mud flat areas.



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Therefore to try and defend this coastline would be impossible with limited personnel available and apart from (NOTE) subjoined does not appear to be vital ground to us.

NOTE. WEST Pt on COX PENINSULA is only $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from EMERY Pt which means that enemy arty could bring fire to bear on Area I from this point.

Therefore need -

- (a) Raiding party, with sea tpt to move direct across PORT DARWIN under cover of darkness, or
- (b) Raiding party, mechanised, with concealed track or tracks leading from SOUTH PORT to WEST Pt, and
- (c) R.A.A.F. assistance in keeping this point free from enemy.

All rivers appear from the air to be tank obstacles, and would probably require engineering assistance to cross them. Crocodiles are reported to be numerous in the area.

Re-embarkation on PORT DARWIN side of the PENINSULA with the view to landing on the beaches of EAST and MIDDLE ARMS would be very difficult to conceal except for a raiding party only. Although JAPANESE equipment might make it possible for a raiding party of A.F.Vs to be landed.

Therefore continuous air recce necessary once landing made on COX PENINSULA and small mobile forces equipped for tank hunting and destruction should be available at selected centres.

In the main the COX PENINSULA can best be defended by establishment of STOP LINE at WEST ARM LANDING - SLATE CLIFF - mouth of CHARLOTTE RIVER - with a base developed at SOUTH PORT and the two well served by ROADS and lines of communication. Roads in the COX PENINSULA would appear to be potentially of more use to the enemy than to our own forces with the exception that a track is required to move forces to evict an arty landing on WEST PT.

5.

WATER

For this important factor see attached water location map and reports named as Appx II.

6.

TIME and SPACE.

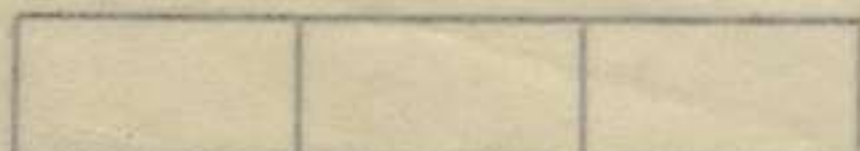
With Units of Bde Gp concentrated at WINNELLIE and 27 mile the landing of enemy raiding parties during the DRY season raises the following vital factors in time and space.

Landing at - (i) PORT McARTHUR and moving to NEW CASTLE WATERS. Reports indicate that this move can be made in 15 hrs by fast M.T. Mobile force stationed at 27 mile with proposed DARWIN-KATHERINE Rd completed could be in KATHERINE in 12 hrs. By rail; the journey to KATHERINE from 27 mile can be made in 12 hrs. KATHERINE-LARRIMAH by rail is 4 hrs.

(a) Unloading and road trip to NEWCASTLE WATERS is 7 hrs making total of 23 hrs travelling under best conditions.

Therefore provided that mobile force is on a one hour notice to move - and

(b) That the information can reach Bde H.Q. 12 hrs in advance of the actual landing - this force can reach NEWCASTLE WATERS in time to defend the L. of C. there, but would not have time to build road blocks, prepare for demolitions or prepare defensive positions. This factor points to the necessity for prior preparation of whatever may be regarded as necessary in this regard.



Επιστολή αριθμ. 1111/1942

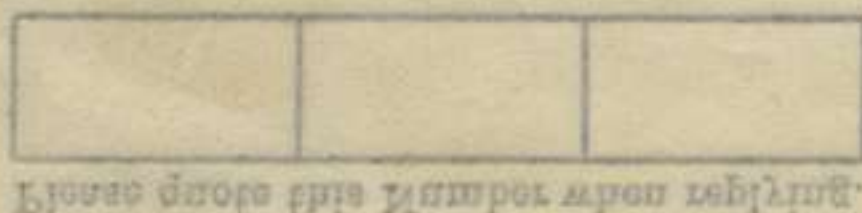
Australian Military

(4)

- (ii) ,ROPER RIVER by water and overland to BIRDUM and MATARANKA.
Enemy force with fast M.T. could make this move in 12 hours.
Our mobile force could be at either place in 16 hrs actual travelling time under the best conditions. Therefore early information is again necessary together with prior preparations of necessary road blocks and defensive positions.
- (iii) ALLIGATOR RIVER to BURRUNDIE.
Enemy force could make this trip in fast M.T. in 6 hours.
Our mobile force would occupy 5 hours in reaching same point either by road or rail.
Therefore early information again necessary together with force on one hour's notice and prepared Rd blocks demolitions and defensive positions,
- (iv) DALY RIVER to ADELAIDE RIVER Sta.
Routes not known but allowing for river crossings or alternative round about routes it would appear that this movement would not be made by fast M.T. in less than 10 hours.
Our forces could move to ADELAIDE River Sta either by road or rail in 4 hours actual travelling time. Therefore although time and space is in our favour in this case in relation to the actual move it would be wise to have early information of road blocks, demolitions and defensive positions prepared beforehand - and in this case the enemy MUST be prevented from approaching within arty range of the L. of C.
- (iva) DALY River to BURRUNDIE.
Routes again not known - but it is estimated that enemy force would again take not less than 10 hrs. Our forces could move to BURRUNDIE either by Rd or Rail in 5 hours.
Therefore early information and prepared road blocks demolitions and defensive positions again necessary.
- (v) QUEENS CHANNEL, VICTORIA RIVER to KATHERINE.
Enemy forces, travelling via Stock Route through VICTORIA RIVER DEPOT and DELAMERE could not make the trip in less than 16 hours. Our forces could reach KATHERINE in 12 hours. Therefore early information and prepared road blocks, demolitions and defensive works again necessary.

Deduction as a result of time and space factor for all named possible routes for raiding parties are:-

- (a) Early information of place and time of landing.
- (b) Adequate mobile forces on one hour's notice schedule.
- (c) Mobile forces well rehearsed in each of several moves that they may be called upon to make.
- (d) Prepared road blocks, demolitions and defensive positions.
- (e) Attachment of civilians of (if procurable) military guides to each force for local topographical knowledge.
- (f) End loading and siding at 27 mile for use of mobile forces which will be situated there.
- (g) Thorough recce and trial of possible routes for both our own forces and enemy - to check on the approximate times given in this para.



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7.

RELATIVE STRENGTHS

Relative strengths - Own forces. 23 Aust Inf Bde Gp located at present

Bde H.Q.)
 Bde Sig Sec) LARRAKEYAH BARRACKS.
 75 L.A.D.)
 2/14 Fd Regt NIGHTCLIFF
 2/21 Bn)
 2/3 Pnr Bn 2/4 M.G. Bn)
 2/13 Fd Regt) WINNELLIE (7 mile)
 2/11 Fd Coy less one Sec)
 2/12 Fd Amb less one Coy)
 Bde Coy AASC VESTEYS.
 2/40 Bn) NOONAMAH
 One Sec 2/11 Fd Coy) KATHERINE.
 One Coy 2/12 Fd Amb)
 75 L.A.D.

It has been recommended that 2/40 Bn be moved to 27 mile and that 2/11 Fd Coy and 2/12 Fd Amb be concentrated at WINNELLIE. *(Dong for)*

Enemy.

Enemy may employ up to one division against DARWIN and the L. of C.

The terrain favours our forces and a thorough knowledge of the ground and mobility is necessary to take advantage of the country. 23 Res M.T. Coy is to be made available for transport of marching personnel of Units. This should be built up to war strength.

Raiding parties may be employed to interrupt the L. of C. from distant points on the GULF of CARPENTARIA or on the West to QUEENS CHANNEL. Strength of raiding parties not likely to exceed a Bn - one ship load - at a distant point.

Air patrols and agents reports of movement toward the route shown in para 3 are necessary and should be established by 7 M.D. Small mob dets on the basis of an inf coy and att must be ready at short notice to deal with such raids.

Characteristics of Enemy.

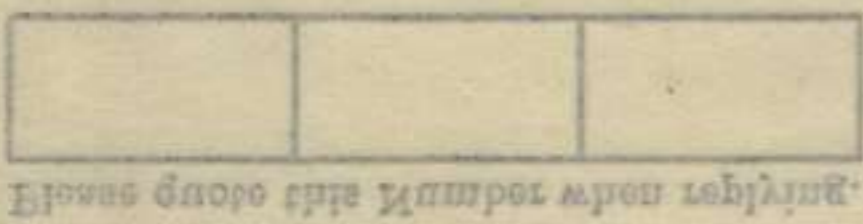
(a) Japanese methods in operation in CHINA have aimed at plans designed to turn one or both flanks of the selected objective. Distances have varied from 80-150 miles. It is not considered practicable to move a large force from a landing made at a distance from DARWIN owing to lack of roads and impassability of country. Landings by large forces will be made closer in to DARWIN from ships anchored out of range of shore batteries. Possible landing areas therefore are in the LEE POINT and POINT CHARLES to BYNOE HARBOUR localities.

(b) Much use is made of feints - Landings are made at places unsuitable by normal standards and on a very wide front in some instances up to 20 miles.

To the East of DARWIN the enemy will be faced with difficulty in concentrating his force if he lands at dispersed points owing to the lack of roads and to the nature of the country generally.

The BYNOE HARBOUR area offers him facilities for broad landings and he could concentrate his force in the COX PENINSULA. He is then faced with difficulty in getting out through the bottle neck between JEWELLERS LANDING and RIVER CHARLOTTE. Routes to this area should therefore be reced and a plan prepared for holding him on this line.

(c) Enemy infantry has shown a disposition to stop and dig in prematurely if subjected to considerable fire and await the help of A.F.Vs and arty fire. Therefore rapid action against enemy landing parties is necessary and efforts must be made to defeat them before they can land arty and A.F.Vs.



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WEAPONSWEAPONS Available.

2/14 Fd Regt is armed with 18 pdrs. These cannot be used in most of the country through which operations may take place owing to the height and density of the timber except at point blank range. 4.5 Hows. would be a more useful weapon. With the guns available Arty must be sited in the infantry positions and given an anti tank role.

If gun posns can be found which give a clearance over existing timber, the location of targets even with FODs with infantry will not be possible in most of the country owing to the density of the timber and lack of O.Ps. The only means of locating targets is by air cooperation. An Army Co-operation Sqn is an urgent necessity in this country, both for arty work and for reporting enemy movements.

A TK GUNS

An enemy landing will be accompanied by A.F.Vs. No A Tk guns are available other than 18 pdrs. A Tk guns are urgently required. To make up for the lack of these guns it will be necessary to dig slit trenches in all areas through which enemy is likely to advance and a high standard of training is required to teach tps to combat A.F.Vs. Molotov cocktails are also required and can be made up locally. A Tk mines are a necessity and should be made available.

M.G. CARRIERS

No carriers are available with the Bde Gp. M Gs operating elsewhere than on the beaches must necessarily fire at short range and will therefore have to move frequently and quickly. Only carriers will enable them to do this efficiently. Carriers are also required for transport of M.Gs with mob colns.

COURSESCourses Open to the Enemy.

(a) To force a landing close into DARWIN in the LEE Pt area and then move towards DARWIN. This offers him the shortest approach while still keeping ships out of range of shore batteries. This course of action is feasible both during WET and DRY seasons. Landings may be made in nonjunction with the LEE Pt operation at THE LANDING 9320 and in the area square 9722 (1" map).

(b) Landing on COX PENINSULA from CHARLES Pt to RIVER CHARLOTTE and subsequently moving on DARWIN from the South. At this date the country is impassable but it cannot be ignored as a possibility later in the year. A road is in course of construction into the peninsula as a means of moving our troops into the area. The possibility of landing guns on the peninsula and shelling DARWIN cannot be ignored.

(c) Landings in force at more distant points east and west of those mentioned in (a) and (b) above are not considered feasible owing to the type of country to be traversed, the difficulty of maintaining the force and the time taken. Raids, however, may be made with a view to cutting the L. of C. to the South and destroying installations. In the DRY season possible routes of such raids are -

- i. From PORT MACARTHUR to NEWCASTLE WATERS.
- ii. From ROPER R to BIRDUM and MATARANKA.
- iii. From ALLIGATOR R to BURRUNDIE and ADELAIDE R to ADELAIDE R Siding.

These routes are considered unlikely as the raider would have an L. of C. vulnerable from DARWIN.

- iv. ANSON BAY and DALY R to STAPLETON Sta.
- v. QUEENS CHANNEL and VICTORIA R to KATHERINE.

Course (a) is the most likely with a combination of any of the roads shown under course (c). These are all considered to be possible and plans must be prepared to deal with any one or more of them.

Australian Military Forces—1st Military District

Courses open to our forces - DRY WEATHER.

Course A. To prepare and hold positions on the line A-B and C-D (See Appx I) and on the line E-F (See Appx 1) with dets prepared to counter raids from the localities indicated.

Course B. To prepare positions as indicated above and to occupy when the direction of the attack is known. The Bde Gp to be concentrated in the area WINNELLIE and 27 Mile.

Dets to be ready to move at one hours notice to counter raids at distant points.

Course B offers the advantage of having the Bde Gp concentrated and it gives the best prospect of achieving the object.

10.PLAN

Covering Force.

LEE Pt area to be watched by det D.I.B.
Landing Points north of line C-D will be covered by dets from Coy allotted to this line.

Posns to be prepared for occupation as under -

Line A-B - 2/21 Bn with under Comd one bty less one tp.

Line C-D - One coy 2/3 Pnr Bn with under Comd one tp and one sec carrier pl 2/40 Bn

Line E-F - 2/3 Pnr Bn less one coy and under comd one sec carrier pl 2/40 Bn.

Posns will be occupied on receipt of instructions from 23 Inf Bde H.Q.

Counter raiding Dets.

2/3 Pnr Bn to prepare det of one coy to move to north end of COX PENINSULA to eject landing parties of arty when landing effected. To move only on orders from Bde H.Q. 2/40 Bn to prepare two dets to counter raids on the L. of C. from the GULF of CARPENTARIA and from the area ANSON BAY - QUEENS CHANNEL.

Digging. Slit trenches - soil to be removed. Every effort to conceal trenches and tracks.

Res. 2/40 Bn.

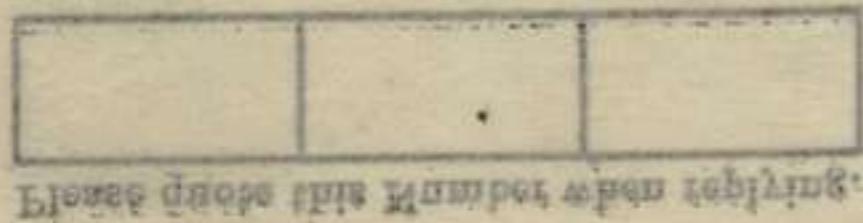
Adm. Supply Pet R.H. ADELAIDE R.
Ann R.H. McMINNS LAGOON.

Med. A.D.S. WINNELLIE.
M.D.S. HOWARD SPRINGS.
Res A.D.S. WINNELLIE.

Bde H.Q. - location - 9110

opens on declaration of hostilities with JAPAN.

Sigs - line to WINNELLIE.



Please quote this number when replying.

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Australian Military Forces - 7th Military District.

Appx. Y

SM 2251

SECRET

16 Jan. 42.

H.Q. 23 Aust. Inf. Bde.

ROLE OF 23 AUST. INF. BDE. GP

1. In reply to 23 Aust. Inf. Bde. S/7/30 of 5 Jan. 42, I am directed to reply that the role stated in 7 M.D. Outline Plan cannot be altered. As the role has been personally explained to the Comd. 23 Inf. Bde., it should not be open to any misinterpretation. In this connection the para. 4, of 23 Aust. Inf. Bde. Operation Instruction No. 6, will be altered to conform with the role given.
2. The need of more troops is fully realised but there appears little prospect of obtaining them at present. It is not proposed to ask for a horsed Regiment.
3. The state of training of new units arriving is a disturbing factor and every effort must be directed to effecting an improvement. Special attention will be paid to the training of officers. A report on progress made will be submitted to reach this office by the last day of each month.


 Lt.-Col.
 General Staff, 7th Military District.

3/7/30

23 Aust Inf Bde
Larrakeyah Barracks
DARWIN 5 Jan 42

SECRET

HQ 7 MDROLE OF 23 AUST INF BDE GP

1. To provide Covering Force to prevent hostile landings on coast line HOWARD RIVER (incl) to LUDMILLA CK (incl).
2. As Pd Force to attack enemy who may succeed in landing.
3. To provide one Rifle Coy for protection of L of C, ADELAIDE RIVER.
4. Order of Battle of Bde Gp at present includes -
 - HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde and att.
 - 2/14 Pd Regt
 - 14 A Tk Bty
 - HQ and one sec 2/11 Pd Coy
 - 23 Pd Coy
 - 27 Bn
 - 43 Bn
 - Units of Supply, Maintenance, Medical, etc.

Of these Units, 27 Bn, 43 Bn, and 23 Pd Coy require at least 3 months uninterrupted tng before they can be considered fit for any operational role.

5. Advice has been received that 19 M G Regt will complete detrainment in 7 MD on 13 Jan 42 to complement these Units.

6. Role 1. Beach Defence

(a) It is necessary to dispose as essential elements for beach defence :-

As a minimum 42 M M Gs
seven 18 pr guns
two tps A Tk guns
two rifle coys

(b) The minimum requirements to provide depth to this Beach defence involve increase of above to

48 M M Gs (one M G Regt (36 MMG) plus one MG
coy Rifle Bn AMP (12 guns))
one Rifle Bn AMP less MG Coy
one Pd Regt
one A Tk Bty (12 guns)

(c) From the force to be available after the arrival of 19 M G Regt the deletion of this strength to Beach Defence of rifle coy to ADELAIDE RIVER involves the reduction of strength of Bde Gp available as Pd Force, Role 2, to -

one Rifle Bn AMP (less one rifle coy)
HQ and one sec 2/11 Pd Coy
23 Pd Coy

7. It is submitted that with due regard to
 - (a) lateral extent of Beach Defence responsibility,
 - (b) character of terrain,
 - (c) paucity and character of road and track comms,
 - (d) difficulty of maintenance of mobility in view of (c) and WET season,
 - (e) tac tics of enemy compelling provision of depth to Beach Defence,

(2)

these tps (para 6 (c)) could well be used as local reserves, and the force available is adequate only for the role of Covering Force.

8. If HQ 7 MD appreciate that a Pd Force is necessary, either to deal with landings outside HOWARD RIVER - LUDMILLA CK area, or to attack enemy who succeed in landing in strength within that area, it is submitted that a separate Pd Force should be available in this District, of the strength of a Bde Gp, with a Cav Regt (horsed) included.

9. The wisdom of provision of one cav Regt (horsed) to operate with the Pd Force for recon and flank protection in country of this character is again stressed (see this office S/7/15 of 19 Nov 41). The opinion is repeated that despite local conditions during WET season it would be of utmost value.

J. Keind

Brigadier
Comd 23 Aust Inf Bde

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
BRIGADIER.	MX 1145	DOUGHERTY I.M.	Bde Comd.	Yes	
MAJOR.	VX 114796	DAVIES T.F.	B.M.	"	
CAPTAIN.	VX 5012	BROWN H.V.	S.C.	"	
"	VX 114758	REDWOOD J.W.	T.O.	"	
LIEUT.	VX 45737	PROSSOR A.F.	L.O.(I)	"	
"	VX 39042	POWELL L.G.	BASCO.	"	
"	VX 116110	MARSHALL L.R.	-	No.	Detached NT Force Sep 42
"	VX 116432	ROSE R.T.M.	I.O.	Yes	
"	WX 11052	DRIVER A.R.	B.M.(W)	"	
"	VX 28426	WILD W.H.	L.O.(II)	No.	School - 2 MP.
"	VX 30357	FITZGERALD A.J.	A.O.	Yes	
"	V&P. 1111	KILBY K.T.R.	E.O.	"	
"	RX 27658	CASEY N.V.	H.O.	"	
CHAPLAIN.	V111081	PIDD A.T.	-	No.	Detached - 8 Bn
"	M126100	FRY F.J.	-	"	" - 7th Div Bn
"	MX 70677	KRUST G.H.D.	-	"	" - 19 MG Bn.
"	S. 40268	BARRETT J.C.	-	"	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

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

HQ 23 (Unit.)

(Signature of Commander.)
Capt.

2 Oct 42
(Date of Despatch.)

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

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

(Adapted)

HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde (Unit) *2 Oct.* 1942 (Date).

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

AMENDED PART 'A' AF W3009

Detail	War Establishment	Strength Excl Attd & 'X' List	Surplus	Deficiency	Remarks
W.O. Cl I	1			1	
W.O. Cl II	2	2			
C.Q.M.S	1			1	
S/SGTS		1	1		
SGTS	5	4	1	2	
CPLS	6	6	1	1	
SPEC GP 1	1			1	
2	5	4		1	
3	2	4	2		
PTES ETC	44	41		3	
TOTALS	67	62	5	10	

x These totals are to agree with totals of part 'D'

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
<i>Postal Att. against WE</i>			<i>Other attachments</i>
<i>1 Sgt, 1 Cpl, 1 OR</i>	<i>AA Postal Service</i>		<i>Nil.</i>

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

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

HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

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

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners	Y 30		Fire Control Operators	24	1	Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers	2	1	Fitters and Turners	1	1	Pharmacists	2	1
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers	1	1	Fitter's Mates	1	1	Photo-Writers	2	1
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.	3	1	Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths	1	1	Fitters, Signal	1	1	Predictor Numbers	1	1
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks	1	1	Height Takers			Riveters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties		2	Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.	1	1	Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics			Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
C&MS.	1	1	General Duties		3			
BOWO.	1	1						
AMENITIES SGT.		1						
DRIVER PIT		1						
TRANSPORT. CPL.	1							
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)				5	10			

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

HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 2 Oct 42

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
BRIGADIER.	MX 1148	DOUGHERTY I.N.	Bl. Comd.	Yes.	
MAJOR.	VX 111796	DAVIES T.F.	B.M.	"	
CAPTAIN.	VX 5012	BROWN H.V.	S.C.	"	
"	VX 111788	REDWOOD J.W.	T.O.	"	
LIEUT.	VX 45737	CROSSO R.	L.O. (11)	"	
"	VX 39042	POWELL L.G.	BASCO.	"	
"	VX 161110	MARSHALL L.P.	-	No.	Detached NT 3000 Apr. 42.
"	VX 461432	ROSE R.T.M.	I.O.	Yes.	
"	WX 11052	DRIVER. A.P.	B.M. (L)	"	
"	VX 28426	WILD W.H.	L.O. (11)	No.	School - 2 MP.
"	VX 30357	FITZGERALD. A.J.	A.O.	Yes.	
"	VXP 1111.	KILLEY K.T.R.	E.O.	"	
"	RX 27688	CASEY N.V.	H.O.	"	
CHAPLAIN.	V111081.	PIDD A.T.	-	No.	Attached - 8 Bn.
"	N. 119102.	FRY F.J.	-	"	" - 7 "
"	NA 70677	KRUST G.H.D.	-	"	" - 24 Pw Bn
"	S 110268	BARRETT J.C.	-	"	" - 17 MG Bn.

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

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

11023 Amk Imp Bde

(Unit.)

[Signature] Capt.
(Signature of Commander.)

9 Oct 42.

(Date of Despatch.)

NT 3000

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

HQ 23rd Coy Inf Bde Unit.

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

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths			Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Brayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks			Height Takers			Riveters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.			Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics			Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Driver, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
CO MS.	1	1	General Duties		3			
BOND.	1	1						
TRANSPORT (M).	1							
" Sgl.		1						
WO II (M. O. W.)	1							
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)				6	10			

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

Unit. HQ 23rd Coy Inf Bde

Signature of Commander. [Signature]
NT. Force

Date of Despatch. 9 Oct. 42

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

W.E. AIF. II/2/2 (as amended) 15 x 67 and

2 staff learners.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Serial No 1/42

HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
<u>BRIGADIER</u> *	1.		
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	2		2
<u>CHAPLAINS</u>		1	
Lieutenants	4	2	1
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	17	3	3

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
BRIGADIER	NX1148	DOUGHERTY	I.M.	Bde. Band.	yes.
MAJOR	VX11796	DAVIES	TF	BM	"
CAPTAIN	VX 5012	BROWN	H.V.	S.C.	"
"	VX 11788	REDWOOD	J.W.	T.O.	No school - NT Force
LIEUT	VX 115737	PROSSOP	MF	LD(H)	yes.
"	VX 39042	POWELL	LG	BASCO	"
"	VX 11111	MARSHALL	LR	-	No Detachment NT Force - SC 11/42
"	VX 11432	ROSE	R.T.M.	I.O.	yes
"	WX 11052	DRIVER	A.R.	BM.(L)	"
"	VX 25126	WILD	WH	L.O.(H)	No school - 2 MP.
"	VX 30357	FITZGERALD	AJ	AD.	yes.
"	VXP11111	KILLEY	KTR	EO.	"
"	QX27688	CASEY	NV	MO.	"
CHAPLAIN	V111091	PIDD	AT	-	No Attached - 5 Bn
"	N1129110	FRY	FJ	-	" - 7 "
"	NX 70677	KRUST	GHD	-	" - 2/4 Pw Bn
"	S110268	BARRETT	JC	-	" - 19 MG Bn

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

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

H223 (Unit)

(Unit.)

[Signature] Capt.
(Signature of Commander.)

16 Oct 42

(Date of Despatch.)

NT Force

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

HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

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

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths			Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks			Height Takers			Riveters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties		2	Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.		1	Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics			Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
CQMS.	1	1	General Duties.	1	4			
BOWO.	1	1						
TRANSPORT CPL	1							
Sgt.		1						
WOII (see over)	1							
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)				7	11			

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

Unit. HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde

Signature of Commander. Capt. Bde.

Date of Despatch. 16 Oct 42

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

W.E. AIF. II/2/3 (~~17x69~~) 17x69.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

HR 23 Aust Inf Bde (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
BRIGADIER *	-		1
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	3		1
CHAPLAINS			
Lieutenants	5	1	1
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	16	2	3

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
/				

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.	
BRIG.	DOUGHERTY	L.N.	Genl. Hist.	19 Oct 42	Transfer to New Guinea Force

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
MAJOR.	VX 44796	DAVIES T.F.	BM.	Yes.	
CAPTAIN.	VX 5012	BROWN. H.V.	S.C.	"	
"	VX 44755	REDWOOD. J.W.	T.O.	No.	School - NT Force
(ART. Lieut.)	VX 45737	PROSSOR. N.F.	LC(II)	Yes.	
"	VX 39042	POWELL L.G.	BASCO.	"	
"	VX 46040	MARSHALL L.R.	-	No.	2nd Lt. NT Force - 5/1/42
"	VX 46432	ROSE R.T.M.	LO.	Yes.	
"	WA 4052	DRIVER. R.R.	BM (W)	No.	School - 2 MID.
"	VX 25436	WILD. W.H.	LC(II)	"	"
"	VX 30357	FITZGERALD A.J.	AG.	Yes.	
"	VXP 4441	KILLEY K.T.R.	ED.	"	
"	RX 27086	CASEY N.V.	H.O.	"	
CHAPLAIN.	VIM1081	PIDD. A.T.	-	No.	Detached - 8 Bn
"	N. 43940	FRY F.J.	-	"	" 7 "
"	NY 70677	KRUST G.H.D.	-	"	" 2/4 P.M. Bn
"	S. 40263	BARRETT J.C.	-	"	" 19 MG Bn

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

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

HQ 23rd Army Sig Bde

(Unit.)

(Signature of Commander.)

23 October 42

(Date of Despatch.)

NT Force

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

(Adapted)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

SERIAL No. 2/42

HR 23 Amst Inf Bde (Unit)

23 October 1942 (Date).

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

WE. AIF. II/2/3 17 x 69

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

AMENDED PART 'A' AF W3009

Detail	War Establishment	Strength Excl Attd & 'X' List	Surplus	Deficiency	Remarks
W.O. CI I	1			1	
W.O. CI II	2	4	2		
C.O.M.S	1	1			
S/SQTS					
SQTS	5	3		2	
CPLS	7	6	1	2	
SPEC GP 1	1			1	
2	4	5	2	1	
3	2	4	2		
PIES ETC	46	37		7	
TOTALS	69	62	7	14	

x These totals are to agree with totals of part 'D'

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
<u>Person attached against WE.</u>			<u>Other attachments</u>
<u>1 Sgt 16 Pl 1 OR.</u>	<u>NTF Postal Service</u>		<u>Nil.</u>

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

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

HS 23 Aug 41 Bde Unit.

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

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths			Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Booklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks			Height Takers			Riveters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.			Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics			Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
BOWEN	1	1	General Duties		7			
TRANSPORT CPL	1							
Sgt.		1						
WO II (see over)	1							
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)				7	14			

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

HS 23 Aug 41 Bde Unit.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 23 October 41

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

WE. AIF. II/2/3

17 x 69.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Serial No 3/42.

HQ 23rd Div Sydney

(Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
BRIGADIER. *	—		1
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	3		1
CHAPLAINS			
Lieutenants	4	1	1
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	16	2	3

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut.	WILD. W.H.	8 Bn	25 Oct 42	Returned from leave - 2 MP.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
 				

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
MAJOR	VX 44796	DAVIES T.F.	ARM	Yes	
CAPTAIN	VX 5012	BROWN H.V.	SC	"	
"	VX 44788	REDWOOD J.W.	T.D.	No	school - NT force
"	VX 45737	PROSSOR M.F.	LD (1)	Yes	
Lieut.	VX 39042	POWELL L.G.	BASCO	"	
"	VX 44440	MARSHALL L.P.	-	No	2nd Lt. NT force - 5th Div
"	VX 46432	ROSE R.T.M.	LD	Yes	
"	WX 4452	DRIVER A.P.	BM(2)	Yes	school - 2 MP.
"	VX 25426	WILK WH.	LD (2)	Yes	
"	VX 30357	FITZGERALD A.J.	RD	"	
"	VXP 4411	KILLEY K.T.R.	ED	"	
"	QX 27655	CASEY N.V.	HO	"	
CHAPLAIN	YUN 081	PIPP A.T.	-	No	Detached - 8 Bn
"	N42940	FRY F.J.	-	"	" - 7 "
"	MX 70677	KRUST G.H.D.	-	"	" - 24 P in Bn
"	SIN 268	BARRATT J.C.	-	"	" - 14 MG Bn

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

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

(Unit.) (Signature of Commander.)
 (Date of Despatch.) (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

Serial No 3/42

118 23 Unit Inf Bde

(Unit)

30 October

1942

(Date)

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

WE AIF II/2/3 17th 69

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

AMENDED PART 'A' AF W3009

Detail	War Establishment	Strength Excl Attd & 'X' List	Surplus	Deficiency	Remarks
W.O. CI I	1			1	
W.O. CI II	2	4	2		
C.Q.M.S.	1	1			
S/SGTS					
SGTS	5	3		2	
CPLS	7	6	1	2	
SPEC GP 1	1			1	
2	4	5	2	1	
3	2	4	2		
ETCS ETC	46	39		7	
TOTALS	69	62	7	14	

x These totals are to agree with totals of part 'D'

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
Post attached against WE	WE		
1 Sgt 1 Cpl 1 OR.	NT.F. Postal Service		Nil.

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

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

HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

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

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths			Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks			Height Takers			Riveters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties		2	Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks	2	1	Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.		1	Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics			Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
BOWO	1	1	General Duties		7			
Transport Sgt	1							
WO II (as comd)	1							
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)				7	14			

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

HQ 23 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

Signature of Commander.
NT [Signature]

Date of Despatch 30 Oct. 42

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

