

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

Item number: 8/2/17

17 Infantry Brigade

September 1940

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively, Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1940			
Beit Jirja	Sep. 1		<p>The usual Sunday parades were held throughout the brigade.</p> <p>Tonight there was a Symphony Concert by the Palestine Symphony Orchestra - Conductor Bronislaw Szulc. The concert was extremely well received by the troops, the hall being crowded. 4 Sisters from 2/1 C.C.S. attended dinner at the mess and then, together with Gen. Blamey, Gen. Mackay, + numerous visiting officers and Sisters from Gaza Ridge, attended the Concert. After the performance supper was served in the various officers messes for visitors.</p>	
		2	<p>Our "K" Section Div. Sigs. at last reported for duty with Lieut. F. Cox in charge. A great scare today.— Entries from Bde. for the races had been passed over.</p>	
		3	<p>The "Entries Question" satisfactorily settled amid great sighs of relief. G.O.C. 1 Aust. Corps, with new A.D.C. Capt. Carlyon, called to see Brig. Lt-Col. C.E.M. Lloyd called and requested for platoons to assist at B.O.D. with packing and general duties. Lord Haw Haw of Zeesen again said his farewells to Australian troops in Palestine. Regretted that such fine troops would never return from country to which they were moving!</p>	
		4	<p>Major E.W. Woodward, sole remaining representative of Div. H.Q., arrived at Bde. H.Q., staying with us until we move. W.O.1 Coyle and 2 men also arrived as reps. of D.A.D.O.S. Conference of all officers at Bde. H.Q. B.M. explained the new Standing Orders and the jobs involved for each officer. S.C. enlarged on information regarding the move. G.O.C. 6 Aust. Div. called to see the Brig.</p>	
		5	<p>A quiet day at Bde. H.Q. - one which is hoped and prayed for, but which seldom arrives. Preparations for the Race Meeting progressing well and everything points to a most successful day.</p>	
		6	<p>Capt. Bishop now occupied fully on matters relating to the coming move. Race books have arrived and the sportive instinct will out by picking winners with a pin.</p>	
		7	<p>The great day arrives and an influx of horses around the lines takes place. With the exception of the Field Officer and a few other ranks, the entire Bde. staff attended the races. Noted^{also} were the G.O.C. 1 Aust. Corps and G.O.C. 6 Aust. Div. Camp was strangely deserted, but Barbara presented an unusual sight for a military camp. In addition to the A.I.F. there were Arabs, Jews and soldiers of all Units in Palestine united to make a colourful display to what is termed the biggest race meeting in the country.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Side shows included the bar, and the inevitable "two-up". The carnival spirit was carried well into the night and practically every mess ran a party; the 2/5 Bn. staging a big one for the C.O.'s birthday.	
	8		2/5 Bn. sent a party of R.Cs. to Church Parade in Jerusalem. the party returned but the officers spent the rest of the day in Jerusalem. (After the service) 2/7 Bn. Canteen burnt down.	
	9		<i>a. work of</i> Heavy work ahead. Officers from all messes of this Bde. were entertained by the nurses of 2/2 A.G.H. Gaza Ridge at a dance in their Mess.	
	10		All time is now taken up by packing and preparing for the move.	
	11		The first stage of the movement commenced. This consisted of 137 vehicles under the B.T.O., which left at 1300 hrs. from Beit Jirja. The tail of the column left at 1400 hrs. The advance party left by train. Discrepancies in Sgts. Mess Canteen Accounts discovered.	
	12		B.M. to Jerusalem investigating Sgts. Canteen deficiencies. S.C. relaxed in fine style and took a party of three Staff nurses for picnic on beach !	
	13		Brig., B.M. and Padre Quinn in company with C.R.E. left by road for Egypt - stayed night in Cairo and proceeded to Helwan the next day. Main body entrained at Majdal in evening. Bde. H.Q. entrained with 2/5 Bn. at 2045 hrs. Capt. Gorman issued A.C.F. stores. This was a fine effort and greatly appreciated by the men. The journey was quiet, but somewhat uncomfortable, space for sleeping being limited and consequently there was a great tangle of legs, torsos and heads.	
	14		The journey across Palestine was completed at 0500 hrs., when the train pulled into Kantara. Crossed the Canal by ferry and entrained on other side. Our welcome to Egypt consisted of dozens of hawkers and boot-cleaners, clamouring at our heels. Shaving was proceeded with under difficulties, although most attempted the job. The train stopped at ISMAILIA, ZAQ-a-ZIQ and CAIRO. From CAIRO to HELWAN, there was much shunting to move through the points. On arrival at HELWAN were met by advance party and tpt. at siding. Lieut. Champion arranged for Bde. personnel. 2/5 Bn. marched. The rest of the brigade arrived during afternoon and bivouacked for night on camp site.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively, Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELWAN	Sep. 15		<p>Brig. and B.M. attend Divisional Conference and discuss - (1) Role of the Div. (2) Training. (3) Intelligence (4) Bartholomews report. (5) Orders. (6) Discipline. (7) Lessons from move from Palestine. (8) Replacement of clothing. (9) Catering adviser - visit of Capt. Brown. (10) Leave to Cairo.</p> <p>Brig. went to hospital with sand-fly fever. Goods train arrived with S.C., also equipment and accomodation stores. B.M. interviewed Sgt. McEachern in relation to Sgts. Mess Inquiry.</p>	
	16		<p>Everybody hard at work, the men pitching tents, staff wading through the "paper war", which had assumed large dimensions.</p> <p>B.M. held a staff conference giving the main points about leave, discipline and training. A.A. positions in battalions allocated and sited. At present very few security duties except coy., which takes over HELWAN aerodrome defence tomorrow.</p>	
	17		<p>17 men of "K" Sec. Sigs. 17 Bde. H.Q. conducted a sit-down strike, refusing to erect tents which led to their being incarcerated in 2/7 Bn. guard xxx enclosure, where they "practised" putting up and pulling down <u>A</u> tent. Later men under open arrest without prejudice.</p> <p>B.M. and B.I.O. attended lecture on security by Major Wordsworth - stresses necessity for troops being "security-minded". B.M. and B.I.O. reconnoitre training areas,</p>	
	18		<p>Brig. arrives home from hospital. Looks fit. All tents erected, slit trenches almost completed, A.A. posts sited and dug.</p>	
	19		<p>"A" Coy. 2/7 Bn. took over security posts at TURA, thus making two coys. absent on security duties. Heat today much more pleasant than previous days - dry heat, no wind. Judging distance will be difficult with the haze effects common to this country.</p>	
	20		<p>Conference of C.Os. held concerning training, which is to be intensive. S.C. took over 9 Bren Carriers. B.I.O. went to 11th. Hussars, Abbassia to see a "sun compass", of which so much has been heard and so little seen. Lecture by Brig. to all officers and senior N.C.Os. on protection against attack by A.F.Vs. on a Bde. group on the move. A most instructive and interesting lecture, which brought out clearly the advantages of a "BOX" formation for all round protection.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively, Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELWAN	Sep.			
	21		Brig., B.M., B.I.O. attended lecture by Major A.V.G. Paley on "Italian Army". Most of Bde. H.Q. made their first investigation and appreciation of Cairo night life with the finding of lots of fun - but at what a cost !	
	22		Another one of those days we all hope and pray for : "Peace, perfect peace". Brig., B.M. and S.C. dined in Cairo - "Roasted ducks, liver and vodka". Days like this give us the opportunity of studying air manoeuvres as practised by planes from the aerodrome adjacent to the camp. Capt. Picken left for Liaison Course at Abbassia.	
	23		B.M. and B.I.O. reconnoitred 30 yd. range and finished up by digging the "Battle Taxi" out of the sand. Brig. and B.M. made a reconnaissance for Bde. exercise to try out practicability of "BOX" formation.	
	24		Advised that C.O. Div. Sigs. would try "K" Sec. Sigs. personnel. Instructions received to prepare a camp at <u>MAADI</u> for a N.Z. Bde. B.M. and S.C. interviewed N.Zs. who were very pleased with assistance offered. B.M. makes recce. for Bde. exercise.	
	25		2/7 Bn. erecting tents for N.Zs. Brig. and S.C. visited camp. Troops are very happy with the change from Palestine - scent the quarry to be at closer range.	
	26		Tent erection continued at MAADI. B.M. working on operation orders for the Box Plan to be tried on Monday. Lieut. Lowen left for 2 months Liaison course at Abbassia. C.Os. of 2/5, 2/6, 2/7 Bns. attended artillery shoot.	
27		Col. Walker and party went north on a recce. Brig. and B.M. attended reception at Div. to British High Commissioner in Egypt - Sir Miles and Lady Lampson. 2/5 Brass and Pipe Bands played.		

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively, Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or ~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELWAN	Sep. 28		<p>Brig. lectured in detail on BOX method of protecting a Bde. group on the move. Brig. and B.M. attended Div. conference and met Lt-Gen. Maitland Wilson, much useful information derived from his experiences in Western Desert.</p> <p>Difficulties of observation, hours of mirage. Mirage ^{usually} appears to be the time favoured by Italians for attack.</p> <p>Matters dealt with at Conference -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Importance of communications. 2. Importance of correct procedure, in relation to correspondence. 3. Importance of letters and messages being signed by right authority. General Mackay lectured on <u>control</u>. 	
	29		<p>Brig. and Staff attended afternoon party given by Col. Cook 2/5 Bn. to a party of British nurses. News of ^{the} 3-day exercise.</p> <p>Visit of Gen. Wavell, - Bde. exercise tomorrow makes a big week. Brig. held conference of C.Os. and Adjts. to adjust final details.</p>	
	30		<p>Box Formation exercise carried out today by all Bde. troops plus 2/2 Fd. Regt., Dets. of 2/2 Fd. Coy and 2/1 Fd. Amb.</p> <p>First phase completed according to plan.</p> <p>Second phase xxxxxxxxxxxx viewed by G.O.C. 6 Aust. Div., General Mackay and GI Col. Berryman, who expressed complete satisfaction. An A.F.V. warning was carried out, appropriate ^{being} action taken by all units within 7 mins.</p> <p>Box turned about and exercise repeated.</p> <p>An aircraft warning was acted upon within 3 minutes.</p> <p>Exercise complete success. Certain amount of bogging of vehicles noticed but this was overcome by help of infantry.</p> <p>Co-operation with other arms was excellent.</p> <p>Staff duties and communications worked smoothly.</p>	

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

K.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
<i>Bugadiers</i> *	1		
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	4		
Lieutenants	5		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
TOTALS	10		

* 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	VX 17	Garage S.S.	6 Aust Div	yes	
Captain	VX 22	Brock G.H.			
"	VX 35	Bishop J.J.			
"	VX 190	McLennan J.J.			
Lieutenant	VX 356	Champion V.D.			
"	VX 5104	Schofield J.J.		No	attending M.C. medical school.
Captain	VX 48	McCann R. J.		yes	
Lieutenant	VX 36	McKerrell W.W.			
"	VX 53	Lynch J.H.			
"	VX 352	Pringle J.H.			

(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.
Major	NX 9	Woodward G.W.	6 Aust Div	4/9/40	
Captain	NX 344	Peterson E.	41st L.I.	14/1/40	L.I.D.
Lieutenant	VX 122	Cox J.	2nd L.I.	2/9/40	
"	VX 238	Dunn J.J.	2nd L.I.	25/1/40	Captain
"		Palmer B.S.	Salisbury		major officer

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde
(Unit.)

7 Sept 40.
(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)

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

War Diary

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
<i>Platoon</i> *	<i>1</i>		
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	<i>4</i>		
Lieutenants	<i>5</i>		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
TOTALS	<i>10</i>		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Major	VX 13	Jarvis S.L.	4017 Aust Div	Yes	
Captain	VX 22	Brook C.H.	" "	Yes	
"	VX 35	Bishop J.A.	" "	"	
"	VX 190	McLean W.T.	" "	"	
Lieut.	VX 350	Champion V.O.	" "	"	
"	VX 5104	Schofield V.J.	" "	No	Attending M.E. Train Sch.
Captain	VX 48	Purton H.S.	" "	Yes	
Lieut.	VX 36	McCorbick W.H.	" "	"	
"	VX 53	Lowder J.H.	" "	"	
"	VX 352	Frenck M.M.	" "	"	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt.	VX 204	Robinson E.	L.A.D. 46	14/2/40	L.A.D.
Lieut.	VX 122	Cox F.	Sigs 6 Aust Div	2/11/40	
"	VX 288	Quinn J.A.	215 P.M.		Chaplain
"		Palmer G.S.	Inf. Army		Welfare Officer

4017 Aust Div. by Mde

(Unit.)

17-9-40

(Date of Despatch.)

W. Tucker Capt
for 4017 Aust Div
6 Aust Div.

(Signature of Commander.)

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
Brigadier * *	1		
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	4		
Lieutenants	5		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
TOTALS	10		

* 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.
Major	VX 13	James S.H.	115 Aust Inf Bde	Yes	
Captain	VX 22	Proctor G.H.		Yes	
"	VX 25	Burles J.A.		Yes	
"	VX 190	McLean J.A.T.		Yes	
Lieut	VX 356	Champion J.O.		Yes	
"	VX 5104	Wheeler J.T.		Yes	
Captain	VX 418	Robertson H.A.		Yes	
Lieut	VX 36	Meltonhill W.H.		Yes	
"	VX 53	Lowen J.H.		Yes	
"	VX 352	Branch H.M.		Yes	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	VX 304	Paterson E.	LAD. 46	14.1.40	L.P.D.
Lieut	VX 132	Cox F.	6 Aust Div	2.9.40	
"	VX 288	Quinn J.O.	213 Inf		Chaplain
"		Palmer C.S.	1st Army		Welfare Officer.

115 Aust Inf Bde

(Unit.)

H. T. Jackson
for 115 Aust Inf Bde

(Signature of Commander.)

21.9.40

(Date of Despatch.)

6 Aust Div.

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

40.17 Aust. Inf Bde. (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
Brigade * *	1		
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	4		
Lieutenants	5		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
TOTALS	10		

* 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.
Major	VX 13	Jarvis G.L.	4th Cavalry	Yes	
Captain	VX 22	Smith G.H.	"	"	
"	VX 35	Pitt J.D.	"	"	
"	VX 190	McLean G.T.	"	"	
Lieut	VX 356	Champion V.O.	"	"	
"	VX 5104	Schfield V.J.	"	"	
Captain	VX 48	Pickson K.S.	"	No	
Lieut	VX 36	McDonnell W.H.	"	Yes	
"	VX 53	Lowen J.H.	"	No	
"	VX 352	French H.M.	"	Yes	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	VX 344	Paterson E.	LAD. etc.	14.1.40	L.A.D.
Lieut	VX 122	Cox F.	Dep. to am. etc.	2.9.40	K. det.
"	VX 258	Lucas J.D.	2/8 Am		Chaplain
"		Palmer G.P.	Inf. Army		Welfare Officer

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde
(Unit.)
28.9.40
(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)
6 Aust. Bde
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf Bde (Unit) 7 Sept 1940 (Date).

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

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	1		
Staff Serjeants	1		
Serjeants	4		
Corporals	5		
Troopers, Privates, &c.	45		
TOTALS	57	.	.

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Interpreter	Noice 29		
1 bpl. Spurduty	2/7 Pm		
1 Sgt L AD 46	L AD 46		
2 Ptes L AD 46	L AD 46		
7 OR L AD 46	L AD 46		
1 Sgt bigher	6 aus Div		
1 OR bigher	6 aus Div		
2 OR a.a.s.t.	a.a.s.t.		
1 OR Spurduty	2/5 Pm		
2 Sgts Sgts	6 aus Div Sgts		
1 bpl. Sgts	6 aus Div		
3 OR Sgts	6 aus Div		
1 N.O.I.	6 aus Div		
3 OR	6 aus Div		

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).

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
General duty personnel															
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)															

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde Unit.

Attacker Capt
for H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 21.9.40

6 Aust. Div.
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

HQ. 17 Aust. Inf Bde Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.	
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers																
Butchers																
Carpenters and Joiners																
Clerks																
Despatch Riders																
Draughtsmen (topo)																
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																
Electricians																
Farriers																
Fitters																
Masons																
Painters and Decorators																
Plumbers and Gasfitters																
Saddlers and Harness Makers																
Signallers																
Storemen technical																
Vickers Machine Gunners																
Cooks																
General duty personnel																
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)																

HQ. 17 Aust. Inf Bde Unit.

[Signature]
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf Bde. Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 28.9.40

6 Aust Div
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

17 AUSTR. INF. BDE. OPERATION ORDER No. 1.Information.

- (a) Enemy force estimated an Arm. Div. is advancing North along the Right bank of RIVER WILLS.
- (b) 6 Aust. Div. is within HELWAN fortress and is to march South, in two separate columns, to intercept the enemy. 16 Bde. Gp. on right, 17 Bde. Gp. on left.

Intention.

17 Bde. Gp. will march South from HELWAN fortress and intercept the enemy force.

Method.

The move will be divided into two phases.

- (i) Approach march to Start Line.
(ii) Advance in box formation.

Adv. Guard Comd. Lt-Col. A.H.L. Godfrey M.C., R.D.,
2/6 Bn.

Mob. Troops Mixed Sqn. Div. Cav. Regt.
One Pl. 17 Inf. A.Tk. Coy.

Adv. Gd. 2/6 Bn.
17 Inf. A.Tk. Coy. (less one Pl.)
One Sec. 2/2 Fd. Coy.
Recce. Sec. 2/2 Fd. Regt.
Det. "K" Sec. Sigs.

Right flank gd. Comd. Maj. L.G. Dyke 2/2 Fd. Regt.
No. 3 Bty. 2/2 Fd. Regt. (less How.
Tp.)
One Sec. Carrier Pl. 2/5 Bn.
Two Inf. Secs. 2/5 Bn. in M.T. for
A.A. protection.
(Personnel 2/5 Bn. report to Maj.
Dyke at R.H.Q. 2/2 Fd. Regt. at
0730 hrs. 30 Sep.)

Left flank gd. Comd. Maj. A.E. Arthur 2/2 Fd. Regt.
No. 4 Bty. 2/2 Fd. Regt. (less How.
Tp.)
One Sec. Carrier Pl. 2/7 Bn.
Two Inf. Secs. 2/7 Bn. in M.T. for
A.A. protection.
(Personnel 2/7 Bn. report to Maj.
Arthur at R.H.Q. 2/2 Fd. Regt. at
0730 hrs. 30 Sep.)

Rear Guard. Comd. Capt. J.R. Savigs 2/7 Bn.
One How. Tp. 2/2 Fd. Regt.
B Coy. 2/5 Bn.
One Sec. Carrier Pl. 2/5 Bn.
B Coy. 2/7 Bn.
One Sec. Carrier Pl. 2/7 Bn.
Det. "K" Sec. Sigs.

Phase I. Units will march from their camp sites via WADE GARNEY to their relative positions on Start Line for Phase II under protection of Adv. Gd. and fortifications as in appendix "A".

Phase II.

Start Line. Enoll 488843 - GOAL HILL 5085 marked by flags. Large red flags mark outer flanks of BDE. of Main Body, blue flags mark inner flanks.

Zero. Main Body to cross start line at 0900 hrs. 30 Sep.

Axis of advance Camp high pressure tower - SIESTA HILL
5183 - ABU SHERRIM 521820 on a bearing of 1390 true.
O.C. Adv. Gd. responsible for direction. Direction
from centre of Adv. Gd.

NOTE: All units down to Pls. will watch forward elements
and conform to halts and advances as carried out by
O.C. Adv. Gd.

Protection. Adv. Gd. will take up covering position in its
formation approx. 750^m ahead of start line.
Role of adv. Gd. Protection of forward edge of box.
Liaison with flank Gd. comds. and
co-ord. of A.Tk. protection with
them.
Co-ordination of halts.

Bounds. (i) Start line.
(ii) Covering position.
(iii) SIESTA HILL.
(iv) ABU SHERRIM.
(v) WADI running S.W. from THE CANYON 5580.

Order of march. See appendix "B".

Dispositions.

- (a) Adv. Gd. Mob. tps. will be in position at bound (iii)
deployed to cover move of Adv. Gd. from start line to
covering posn. On Adv. Gd. moving forward they will
then secure bounds (iv) and (v) above in succession.
No forward move from any bound until instructed by
signal from O.C. Adv. Gd.
- (b) Adv. Gd. will move in box formation along line of axis
with front of 1000^m approx. and depth of approx. 750^m.
No forward move from any bound until signalled by Dde.
H.Q.
- (c) Main body. 2/5 Bn. right, 2/7 Bn. left. The
movement of these units on to start line will be
co-ordinated by Lieut. W.H. McCorkell, H.Q. 17 Aust.
Inf. Bde.
Bns. will march on one Coy. front in order A, B,
H.Q. Coy. and 3 Coys.
- (d) Rear guard. O.C. will make provision for A.A. defence
from his own resources.
A. Tk. protection by How. Tp. and rear guns of
flank guards co-ordinated by O.C. How. Tp.
- (e) Field Amb. O.C. will detach one sec. to move at rear
of outer flank of each Bn. of Main body for collection
of casualties.

Supporting Arty. One How. Tp. will move in rear of
Bde. H.Q. One How. Tp. moves under cmd. O.C. Rear
Gd. between B echelon tpt. and Rear Gd.
Any action required for supporting fire in event
of attack will be directed and co-ordinated by O.C. 2/2
Bd. Regt. under orders of Ide. Comd.

A.A. Fla. of main body, all guns to be mounted on
vehicles and disposed, one sec. for protection Bn. H.Q.,
two secs. under cmd. Bde. T.O. moving on outer flanks
of rear group "B" echelon.

Action in event of attack.

- (a) by aircraft. Halt. Controlled fire by Pls.
(b) by A.F.Vs. Adv., Rear, and Flank Gd. comds.
will engage targets within their area of
responsibility for protection. Troops will
halt, adopt prone position and engage targets
with all weapons as they appear within range.

NOTE: It is essential that all troops adopt prone
posn. to enable A.Tk. guns and Field guns a clear
field of action.

Transport. B echelon will be brigaded in two groups as under -

(a) Fwd. gp. under comd. Capt. J.T. Duncan,
2/2 Fd. Regt.

2/2 Fd. Regt.
2/2 Fd. Coy.
46 L.A.B.

(b) Rear gp. under comd. Lieut. H.O. Champion,
H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

H.Q. H.Q.
2/5, 2/6, 2/7 Bns.

Admin. arrangements.

Traffic control.

Unit regimental police will report to Bde. I.O. Lieut. V.J. Schofield for traffic control during phase I at Bde. H.Q. at 0730 hrs.

Guides.

Two guides from each unit will report to Bde. I.O. at Bde. H.Q. at 0730 hrs.

Distinguishing flags

C.Os. will carry a white distinguishing flag on their vehicles.

L.A.Bs. will fly a distinguishing flag yellow.

Alarm signals. The following signals may be hoisted at Bde. H.Q.

Red - denotes tank attack.
Blue - denotes air attack.

An arm will indicate the direction from which attack is coming.

Midday meal. When the box halts for midday meal deployment must be maintained and troops fed on spot where they halt.

Casualties. Any casualties will be moved from all units to the line of outer flanks of 2/5 and 2/7 Bns. from where they will be picked up by detts. of 2/2 Fd. AMB. moving in rear of these flanks.

Inter-comm. Bde. H.Q. will be situated in central position between Adv. Gd. and Main body and in line with centre of the lane between Bns. of main body.


Note. C.Os. 2/2 Fd. Regt. and 2/2 Fd. Coy. will attach themselves to Staff of Bde. Comd.

Comm. from front to rear down central traffic lane. "R" Sec. Sigs. will move with Bde. H.Q. with W/E communication to C.G. Adv. Gd.

Acknowledge.

Issued by Signals.

Time of signature - 2000 hrs.


A/Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Capt.,

Distribution:

Copy No. 1	2/5 Bn.	Copy No. 7	2/1 Fd. mb.	Copy No. 13	Sig. Off.
2	2/6 "	8	Comd.	14	L.A.B.
3	2/7 "	9	S.C.	15	6 Aust. Biv.
4	2/2 Fd. Regt.	10	I.O.	16	File.
5	6 Aust. Cav.	11	T.O.	17-18	War Diary
6	2/2 Fd. Coy.	12	L.O.		

29 Sep. 40.

Copy No. 17...

APPENDIX "A" to 17 AUSTR. INF. BDE. O.O. no. 1.Movement order phase 1.

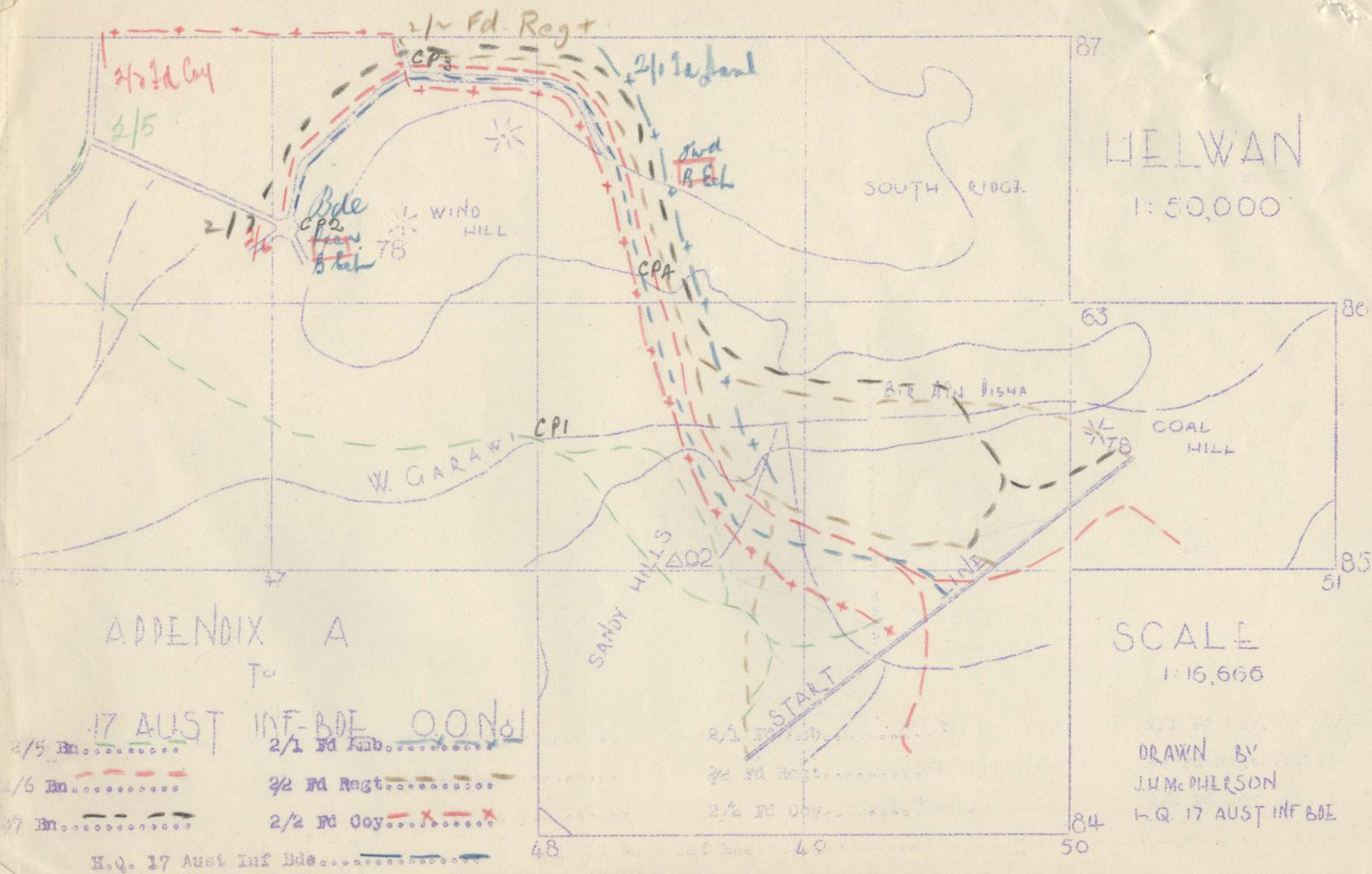
Control. Control posts will be established at points shown on sketch numbered 1-4. These will be manned by Regimental police to be placed by Bde. I.C. by 0735 hrs.

Routes and Reference attached sketch.

timings. Units will pass control posts at times set out hereunder :-

2/2 Md. Regt. pass	C.P. 3	0745 hrs.	
(less 40 L.A.D.)	" 4	0750 "	
2/2 Md. Coy.	" 3	0755 "	
	" 4	0810 "	
H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.	" 2	0755 "	
	" 3	0805 "	
	" 4	0820 "	
2/7 Bn.	" 2	0805 "	
	" 3	0815 "	
	" 4	0830 "	
2/5 Bn.	Laundry	0800 "	
	C.P. 1	0820 "	
Md. Amb.	" 3	0830 "	
	" 4	0845 "	
Fwd. Ep. B Bch.	" 4	0900 "	assembly 16 Bde Vehicle Park.
Rear " B "	" 2	0915 "	assembly 17 Bde Vehicle Park.
	" 3	0920 "	(L.A.D. 40
	" 4	0930 "	follows column from C.P. 3)

Unit routes to start line are shown in colour on the sketch.



HELWAN
1:50,000

SCALE
1:16,666

DRAWN BY
J.H. McPHERSON
H.Q. 17 AUST INF BDE

APPENDIX A
TO

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 2/5 Bn..... | 2/1 Fd Regt..... |
| 2/6 Bn..... | 2/2 Fd Regt..... |
| 2/7 Bn..... | 2/2 Fd Coy..... |
| H.Q. 17 Aust Inf Bde..... | |

Adv. Fd. Mobile Tps

APPENDIX B

← 1000 YDS →

ADV GUARD
2/6 BN
17 INF & TR COY (1350000)
ONE SEC 2/2 FD COY
RECCE. SEC 2/2 FD REG
DET "K" SIG SECT.

2/2
FD REG
LESS
3 & 4 BTYS
4 REPT. SEC

BDE HQ
K SEC SIGS
LESS DETS
ONE HOW TP

2/2
FD COY
LESS
ONE SEC

← 200 YDS * 500 YDS * 500 YDS * 500 YDS * 200 YDS →

2/7 BN
LESS DETS

FWD
B ECH
ARTY. ENG
46 L AL

2/5 BN
LESS DETS

REAR
B ECH
BDE HQ, 2/5, 2/5 2/7

FD
AME

HOW TP

LAC
DO

← 500 YDS →

← 1000 YDS →

REAR GUARD
D COY 2/5 BN
ONE CARRIER SEC 2/5
D COY 2/7 BN
ONE CARRIER SEC 2/7

2/7 BN PLUS TWO LINE SECS
2/7 BN PLUS ONE SEC CARRIER PL 2/7 BN PLUS ONE SEC CARRIER PL 2/7 BN PLUS TWO LINE SECS

2/5 BN PLUS TWO LINE SECS
2/5 BN PLUS ONE SEC CARRIER PL 2/5 BN PLUS TWO LINE SECS
2/5 BN PLUS TWO LINE SECS

LEFT
DET FD AMB
FLANK GUARD

DET FD AMB
RIGHT
FLANK GUARD

pte. A Gbb

Ref. Map. H E L W A N 1: 50,000

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Exercise No 4.
Exercise Instructions

OBJECT. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. and attached troops will carry out an exercise on Monday 30 Sep. 40 based on :-
Movement of a Bde Gp over open country in a 'box' formation, with special reference to defence of the force against attack by A.F.V's or from the air.

CONDUCT. The exercise will be divided into two phases as follows :-
(i) The approach march to start line.
(ii) Move of group in 'box' formation.

LOCATION. The exercise will take place in Bde Trg Area 'Z'.

ASSUMPTIONS. For the purposes of the exercises it is assumed that :-
(i) The HELWAN camp area is a fortress.
(ii) Fixed defences of fortress include :-
(a) A.F. Guns on SANDY HILLS 4885 and SOUTH RIDGE 5036.
(b) A.A. Guns in same localities.

COMPOSITION. The Bde Group will consist of :-
17 Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. (Inc. 'K' Sec. Sigs, 45 L.A.D., and 17 Inf. A Tk Coy.)
2/5 Bn.
2/6 Bn.
2/7 Bn.
Mixed Sqn. 6 Aust. Div. Cav. Regt.
2/2 Fd. Amb.
2/2 Fd. Coy.
2/2 Fd. Regt.

FORMATION. The formation of the 'box' will be ~~shown~~ as shown on sketch attached O.O. and described by Brigadier Comd in lectures.

(a) ADV GD. (i) Mobile troops move by bounds 3 - 5 miles in front of the box and covering its frontage. They will report each bound cleared in succession but not move forward until instructed by signal by O.C. Adv. Gd.
O.C. Adv. Gd. Mob. Tps is responsible that he does not move forward if an action intervenes behind him.

(ii) Advance guard will move in box formation approx. 1000' wide and 750' deep, with front and flanks covered by its carriers and A.Tk guns.
Two Coys forward and two Coys in close support.
Bn H.Q., H.Q. Coys., recess Sec. Fd Regt and Sec. Fd Coy in a suitable position in the centre.

A.Tk defence will primarily be responsibility of O.C. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde Tk. Coy. who is also responsible for co-ordination of forward portion of flank g. guards with advance guard.

(b) MAIN BODY (i) Remaining Bns will each march in box with frontage approx. 500x and depth approx. 1500x with a lane approx. 600x wide between their inner flanks provided for the move of 'B' echelon transport in bounds and for comm. from front to rear.

(ii) Distance from rear to adv. gd. to front of main body approx. 750x.

(iii) Bns will march on a Coy front with special attention paid to defence in depth but no distances will be maintained between Coys to achieve this.

(iv) Carrier Pls (less dets) will operate chiefly on outer flanks.

(v) Pls will be deployed in suitable formations to break regularity in line of Jeeps.

(c) FLANK GUARDS.

The Pd Regt will detail one Pd Bty (less How Tps) to each flank to provide flank protection against A.F.V. attack for the length of the column.

Each Bn of main body will detach one Carrier Sec and two Inf Secs in M.T. with L.M.G.'s mounted for A.A. defense, to the flank Gd on its outer flank.

Flank Gds will operate approx. 200x from outer flanks of Inf. Bns.

(d) REAR GUARDS.

'D' Coy and one Carrier Sec. of each Bn of main body will be detached to form the rear gd. They will adopt box formation approx. 1000x wide by 500x deep across rear of column.

One How.Tp. will come under command O.C. rear gd. who will nominate O.C. How. Tp. to co-ordinate A/Tk. protection at rear of column.

TRANSPORT.

(a) 'A' Echelon will remain with units to effect ready access by Pls for quick action, and move by bounds within Coy Areas.

Particular attention will be paid to correct dispersal subject to avoidance of soft sand in which M.T. may become bogged when another suitable formation will be adopted to maintain dispersion. On no account will these vehicles move outside the limits of the box occupied by the unit.

(b) 'B' Echelon will be brigaded in two groups (forward and rear).

(i) Fwd. Gp.

Arty (less 40 L.A.D.)

Eng.

46 L.A.D.

will move within the lane between flank Bns.

(ii) Rear Gd under command B.T.O.

Bde H.C.

2/5 Bn.

2/6 Bn.

2/7 Bn.

will move by bounds between rear gd and rear edge of lane between flank Bns.

(iii) All M.T. Drivers will ensure that they stop their vehicles on hard standing only and whenever possible on a forward slope.

Once a vehicle begins to sink in sand do not try to drive it out without assistance.

Should a vehicle become bogged the nearest Inf. Sec. will go to its aid and help push it out.

ATTACHED UNITS.

Units will each march in box formations as under:-

(a) 2/2 Pd Coy (less one Sec.) ahead of and on left flank of right Bn.

(b) 2/2 Pd. Regt. (less 3 and 4 Pd Btys and recce Sec) ahead of and on right flank of left Bn.

(c) L.A.D. 40 at rear of and on left flank of right Bn.

(d) 2/2 Pd. Amb. at rear of and on right flank of left Bn

NOTE --(c) and (d) will move by bounds within their own box and clear of 'B' Echelon lane.

(e) All surplus transport of 'A' and 'B' above, which would be classified as 'B' Echelon will come under command of Bde T.O. and form gp 'B' Echelon, moving within the line between flank Bns.

(3)

OPENING
SITUATION

The general situation is as at present in the Western Desert.

NARRATIVE.

A force estimated at an Armoured Division has moved across the Desert and crossed the river Nile near ASYUT. This force then turned north with the apparent intention of securing the HELWAN-MAADI area to aid their coastal column advance.

At 1400 hrs 29 Sep. 6 Aust Div. received orders to move South on morn. 30 Sep. to intercept this force and defeat it.

G.O.C. 6 Aust. Div. decided to move his command in two columns 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. Group on the Right and 17 Aust. Inf Bde G on left.

Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. made his recon and issued operation order No 1.

REPETITION
of EXERCISE.

After the lunch halt the box will be turned about and the exercise repeated towards camp over the same ground.

METHOD. :-

START LINE will be indicated on the ground.

ZERO. 1300 hours.

FORMATION. Same formation will apply except that :-

- (a) 2/7 Bn. will be on right and 2/5 Bn on left.
- (b) No. 4 Fd. Bty becomes right flank guard.
- (c) No. 3 Fd Bty becomes left flank guard.

HALT. When head of adv gd reaches the original start line the box will halt and all units close to the forward hand edge of their boxes.

CONTROL. Bde. H.Q. will establish a control post at head of Adv gd at final halt.

DISPERSAL. 2/2 Fd. Regt. will concentrate forward in WADI GARAWI. 'B' Echelon ~~gt~~ will rejoin respective units. Units will move to private parades under direction from Bde Control in the following order. :-

- Div. Cav Sqn.
- 2/2 Fd Regt.
- 2/6 Bn.
- 2/2 Fd. Coy.
- 2/2 Fd. Amb.
- Bde. H.Q.
- 2/5 Bn.
- 2/7 Bn.

using same routes as for outwards move.



.....Capt.
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Date 27.9.40.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Operation Instruction No. 1.

(Issued in conjunction with 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Operation Order No. 1 and Exercise Inst. No. 4).

My Dear Colonel Gremer,

You will please detail one Fd. Bty. (less How. Tp.) to each flank to protect the column against attack from A.F.Vs., co-ordinated by yourself.

Flank guards will move past the start line in conformity with the move of Adv. Gd., and will take up gun positions in succession on their forward move.

As the column passes rear guns or gun, they or it will move forward to head of column and report to O.C. flank guard. Route to be followed will be lane between guns and Infantry column.

Average interval between line of guns and outer edge of marching troops will be approx. 200^Y, but use of ground rather than accurate distance will be ruling factor. Interval therefore is given as a guide.

The following will come under command of each flank guard commander :-

- (a) One sec. of carriers, whose primary role is :-
 - (i) Short distance reece. to outer flank.
 - (ii) Protection of gun crews against attack by land troops or
 - (iii) To super-impose the weight of their fire on that of A.A. defence of the flank guard.
- (b) two Inf. Secs. mounted on trucks with A.A. mounting to add to Bty's own A.A. defence. They will move within protection of guns, as will also the carriers except when detailed for reece.

The placing of guns is at discretion of Flank Gd. Comd. as is protection of his guns and crews afforded by carriers and Inf. A.A. Secs., provided always that Comd. is responsible for protection of the flank protected by his guard against excursions of enemy A.F.Vs. against that flank.

Transport : Vehicles required by Bty. Comd. -

- (a) for his primary role of A.T. defence, or
- (b) for requirements of coming into action against enemy troops occupying a position in order to give supporting fire

will be retained under his immediate command and move in lane between line of guns and outer flank of moving Infantry.

All other vehicles will come into "B" echelon pool and move under command of Bde. T.O.

Possible enemy action. You will/instruct your O.C. Flank Gds. that an attack against land troops may be anticipated. If so it may not be possible to free all field guns from their primary role of A.Tk. defence, yet on the other hand, it may be essential to have the services of a Troop or possibly two Troops for supporting fire to attacking Inf. If such an event arises, would you kindly provide for the immediate re-organization of, say, the four rear guns of each flank guard into a Troop ready to be withdrawn for covering fire as their primary role and the possible closing of the rear positions against tank attack. My plan will be to close the column, or otherwise, deploy it, when I estimate one Fd. Tp. will be sufficient for flank guard protection against attack by A.F.Vs.

The Troops remaining with primary role of A.Tk. flank defence will then pass from your command and come under my direct command in the general A. Tk. defence plan, which will be co-ordinated by the O.C. 17 Inf. A. Tk. Coy. This pre-supposes that you will then have replaced your senior officers in command of the Flank Gds. by the O.C. remaining Troop.

You will naturally, no doubt, desire to withdraw certain vehicles, and this is left entirely to your discretion.

It is my desire that you remain with me at all times up to the moment when your duties in supporting an attack force you elsewhere, so that I may have your collaboration and technical advice, as well as to provide for the rapid transmission of orders which a change in the situation may force me to give.

Ack.

Brig.
Comdg. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :

Copy No. 1	Lt-Col Greener
2	Bde. Comd.
3	File
4-5	War Diary.

SECRET

29 Sep 40.

Copy No. 17.....

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. OPERATION ORDER No. 1.

AMENDMENT

METHOD

RIGHT FLANK CO.

ADD 1- Pioneer Pl. 2/5 Bn with Pl truck and personnel in M.F.

LEFT FLANK CO.

ADD 1- Pioneer Pl. 2/7 Bn with Pl truck and personnel in M.F.

[Signature]
.....Capt.
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION

As for O.O. No. 1.

Inf, Bde.

SECRET BY

Date Initials

Brig. ✓
B.M. ✓
B.C. ✓
I.C.
L.A.D.
L. 2/5 ✓
L. 2/6 ✓
L. 2/7 ✓
T.O.
A.S.C.
C.Q.M.S.

SECRET

Copy No:

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

3 Sep, 40.

6 AUST DIV OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 1

Issued in continuation of 6 Aust Div Operation Order No. 1, dated 27 Aug, 40.

1.(a) HQ 6 Aust Div will close at DEIR SUNEID 1500 hrs, 4 Sep, 40, and re-open HELWAN, EGYPT, 1800 hrs, 5 Sep.

(b) Comd of that portion of 6 Aust Div remaining in PALESTINE will pass to 1 Aust Corps 1500 hrs, 4 Sep, 40.

Distribution -

17 Aust Inf Bde	G.
19 Aust Inf Bde	Q. (3 copies)
RAA, 6 Aust Div	Camp
RAE, 6 Aust Div	1 Aust Corps
Sigs 6 Aust Div	War Diary
G.O.C.	File

H. Berreman Colonel,
G.S., 6 Aust Div.

CL/JTO

SECRET.



2ND AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

XOVERSEAS BASE

File

File No: 497. 1. 40

127/Q.



ADV. HEADQUARTERS,
1 Aus. Corps
GAZA.
4 Sep. 40.

6. Aus. Div.
✓ 17 Inf. Bde.
2/2 Fd. Amb.

MOVE OF SAMBO.

I am directed to refer to 6 Aus. Div. letter Q.S.108 of 1st Sep. 40, at paragraph 15, and to say that the ambulance detailed from 2/2 Fd. Amb. on arrival in Egypt is to be transferred to 2/1 Fd. Amb. and not to return to 2/2 Fd. Amb. in Palestine.

AS

S/C.

subloopy

H.Q. 17 Aus Inf. Bde.

Lt. Col.
A.Q.M.G. 1 Aus. Corps.

SEEN BY

Date Initials

- Brig ✓
- B.M. ✓
- S.C.
- LO. *AS*
- L.A.D.
- L. 25 *AS*
- L. 26
- L. 27
- T.O.
- A.S.C.
- C.Q.M.S.

W

SECRET.

MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER No. QM/PR/21.

Issued in conjunction with Movement and Customs Instructions,
1937.

Mideast O/8598 of 25/8 refers.

COPY No. ⁴⁴.....

CR/ME/7935/Q(M).

6 SEP. 40.

1. MOVE.

17 Aus Inf Bde Group will move from PALESTINE to
HELWAN.

2. CODE NAME.

The code name for the move is "SAMBO".

3. DATE.

- (a) Advance Party by passenger train 11 SEP 40.
- (b) Vehicles by road depart PALESTINE 11 SEP 40,
arriving HELWAN (KAFR EL ELWI), 13 SEP 40.
- (c) Personnel by rail depart MAJDAL 13/14 SEP 40,
arriving HELWAN (KAFR EL ELWI), 14 SEP 40.

4. STRENGTHS.

- (a) Advance Party :- Officers - 4 Other Ranks - 40.
- (b) Road Party :- Vehicles - 36.
- (c) Rail Party :- See Entrainment Table "A".

5. ROAD ARRANGEMENTS.

H.Q., CANAL SUB-AREA will arrange reception and
accommodation of road party on 12 SEP 40.

H.Q., Aus Div will arrange guides to meet party
outside CAIRO on 13 SEP 40 and conduct to CAMP.

6. RAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

- (a) PALESTINE - KANTARA EAST:- Move in accordance with
Force H.Q., Movement Control Order No. 11 issued
under CR/PAL/16688/1/Q(M) of 3 SEP 40.
- (b) KANTARA WEST - HELWAN (KAFR EL ELWI):- Move in
accordance with Entrainment Table "B".

7/.....

7. SUBSISTENCE.

H.Q., CANAL SUB-AREA, will arrange with the E.F.I. for the provision on arrival of a hot meal, cost not to exceed one shilling per head and train ration cost not to exceed 6d per head.

Hot meal to be supplied on arrival in Camp under Unit arrangements.

Arrangements will also be made for subsistence of road parties upon receipt of information from Force H.Q., PALESTINE.

8. SECURITY.

Officers Commanding Parties will be responsible for their own protection.

9. SUPERVISION.

M.C., CANAL AREA will supervise entrainment at KANTARA and M.C., CAIRO AREA detrainment at KAHR EL ELWI.

10. WARRANTS.

Warrants and Goods Requisitions must be endorsed in RED at the top "AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT."

11. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. J. Barus

Major,
A.Q.M.G. (M).

DISTRIBUTION:- H.Q., B.T.E. 1 - 5
 H.Q., B.F. in P. & T.J. 6 - 15
 H.Q., 1 Aus Corps. 16 - 20
 H.Q., 6 Aus Div. 21 - 25
 H.Q., Cairo Sub-Area. 26 - 30
 H.Q., Canal Sub-Area. 31 - 35
 H.Q., 17 Aus Inf Bde. 36 - 45
 M.C., Canal Area Suez. 46 - 50
 M.C., Cairo Area. 51 - 55
 R.T.O., Kantara. 56

COPIES TO:- H.Q. 16 Aus Inf Bde 57 - 58, M.C. Haifa 59,
 M.C. Lydda 60, R.T.O. Gaza 61, R.T.O. Ismailia 62,
 C.R.L.O. 63, A.D.A.S.P. 64, G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon ME 65,
 A.P.M. 66.

Branches M.E.:-

A.D.C. to C. in C.	67.	G(SD).	72.	Q(P)	77.	B.A.A.	86.
D.C.G.S.	68.	GS(I).	73.	Ciphers	78.	Pay.	82.
D.Q.M.G.	69.	FA.	74.	S.T.	79.	S.Master	83.
A.Q.M.G.(M).	70.	D.S.	75.	M.	80.	A.	84.
G(O).	71.	Q.	76.	O.S.	81.	B.R.A.	85.

Branches H.Q., B.T.E.

A.D.C. to G.O.C.	87.	O.S.	90.	B.i/c A.	93.	S.T.	96.
G.	88.	C.P. in E	91.	B.R.A.	94.	M.	97.
Q.	89.	S.Master	92.	GS(I).	95.	Ciphers	98.

TEAR THIS OFF AND RETURN TO QM2, G.H.Q., M.E.

Received copy/copies No.....of Movement
 Control Order QM/PR/21 dated 6 SEP 40.

DATE.....TIME.....

.....
 SIGNATURE, UNIT OR FORMATION
 of RECIPIENT.

ENTRAINMENT TABLE "A". MOVE OF SAMBO.

Serial No.	Unit or Party.	Officers.	Other Ranks.	Tons of Baggage.
1.	2/2 Fd Coy.	4	210	Total - 300.
2.	HQ, 17 Aus Inf Bde (incl. Sig Sec & L.A.D.)	11	90	
3.	2/5 Bn.	37	720	
4.	2/6 Bn.	35	720	
5.	Provost Coy. (2 Secs).	-	32	
6.	2/7 Bn.	37	730	

ENTRAINMENT TABLE "B".

Train No.	At Station on Siding.	Time of Departure.	Date of Departure.	Composition of Trains				Serial Numbers to Entrain.	Kafr el Elwi Arrive.	
				Shabaks.	1st Class Coaches.	Compo Coaches	3rd Class Coaches.		Time.	Date.
X	KANTARA W.	0810	14/9/40	* 1	1	1	10	2 and 3 4 and 5 1 and 6	1305	14/9/40
Y	KANTARA W.	0910	14/9/40	* 1	1	1	10		1405	14/9/40
Z	KANTARA W.	1025	14/9/40	* 1	1	1	11		1530	14/9/40

* SHABAKS will be ferried across the Canal.

N.B. Box Trucks will be ferried as quickly as possible and despatched as a special Goods Train direct to KAFR EL ELWI.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

In reply
please quote -

Q.S. 108

Headquarters,
6 Aust Div,
DEIR SUNEID.

1 Sep, 40.

6 Aust Cav	3	G.O.C.	1	DADOS	1
HQ RAA	2	G.	1	SOME	1
HQ RAE	1	A.	1	DAPM	1
2/2 Fd Coy	1	Q.	1	6 Aust Pro Coy	2
Sigs 6 Aust Div	3	I.	1	6 Aust Div	
HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	4	AASC	5	Postal Unit	1
2/5 Bn	2	ADMS	1	6 Aust Div Fd	
2/6 Bn	2	2/2 Fd Amb	1	Cash Office	1
2/7 Bn	2			War Diary	2
				File	1

H.Q. 17 Aust Inf Bde
SEEN BY
Date Initial
Brig.
B.M.
S.C.
I.O.
L.A.D.
L. 2/5
L. 2/6
L. 2/7
T.O.
A.S.C.
G.Q.M.S.

For Information -

Adv HQ 1 Aust Corps	4
Comd 19 Aust Inf Bde	1

MOVE OF SAMBO

Herewith Force HQ Adm Instn No. 109, dated 26 Aug, 40.
These Instns are amplified as follows:-

1. Para 1 (b). Delete "2/2 Fd Coy RAE
Two Secs 6 Aust Pro Coy."

and substitute "HQ RAE 6 Aust Div.
2/2 Fd Coy RAE
6 Aust Pro Coy less four Secs."

2. Para 2. 17 Aust Inf Bde will arrange for a cook and necessary cooking gear to be taken on train, 1 Offr 10 O.Rs. per Bn. 17 Aust Inf Bde to arrange representation of other formation HQ & units.

3. Para 3 (a). Movement Control Order No. 11 giving rail arrangements will be issued separately when received by 6 Aust Div.

4. Para 3 (c). Immediately after receipt of Movement Control Order No. 11, Units will submit requisitions to AASC through HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde for tpt required for move of personnel and stores to AL MAJDAL. Numbers of vehicles should be kept to a minimum by increasing the number of trips as far as practicable.

5. Para 4 (b). NOT more than one third of motor cycles may proceed by road for convoy control. Relief riders will be taken and reliefs effected NOT less often than at three-hourly halts.

6. Para 5 (c). Only tracer amn held in excess of G 1098 scale for AA purposes, vide 6 Aust Div 1801 of 8 Aug, 40, will be returned.

7. Para 6. Rear parties will be fed under local arrangements, and will be provided with undated rail warrants.

8. Para 7. Nominal rolls to cover personnel in paras 7(a), 7(b) and 7(c), (detention cases only) will be forwarded to Offr i/c Records, 2nd Echelon.

9. Para 8. Blankets in excess of 2 per all ranks will be returned. When stocks within Units permit, Australian blankets will be issued to replace British blankets in possession of personnel before handing in any excess of the former type to Base Ord Depot.

10. Para 13 (b). Unit MOs will accompany Units by train.

11. Appx "A" MOVEMENT TABLE - ROAD PARTIES. Add new serials:-

4 A 6 Aust Pro Coy less four Secs	7 11 Sep.
4 B HQ RAE 6 Aust Div	3 11 Sep.

12. Para 5. Comds for road parties will be appointed for Serials 1 to 4 by Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde, and for Serials 4A and 5 by CRE 6 Aust Div. Comd. for whole convoy will be appointed by 17 Aus Inf Bde.

APPENDIX "A"

13. Para 8. Maps will be issued, 9 to 17 Aust Inf Bde and 3 to RAE when received.

14. Para 11. Units will indent immediately on AASC for necessary supplies of water purifying stores to complete to scale laid down.

RAE 6 Aust Div will ensure that water facilities at ASLUJ are available from 1600 hrs, 11 Sep, until LAD clears on 12 Sep.

15. Para 13. One MO and an ambulance will be provided by 2/2 Fd Amb. The ambulance will travel with LAD at rear of convoy. At times it will be several hours behind the leading vehicle and if medical attention is urgently required a vehicle must be sent back for the ambulance.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

16. ADVANCE LIAISON. 17 Aust Inf Bde will arrange for an Offr to report on 10 Sep to 23 Inf Bde at ISMAILIA for liaison duty during crossing of SUEZ CANAL by SAMBO.
17. LOADING OF VEHICLES. In addition to weapons and amm specified in para 11 (c) of Adm Instn 109, Units will load vehicles with War Equipment, and NOT with accommodation stores. Care will be taken that vehicles are NOT overloaded.
18. POL. AASC 6 Aust Div will establish PP at ASLUJ sufficient to replace petrol and oil used by all vehicles on trip from present locations to ASLUJ.
19. DRIVING ORDERS. All drivers will be warned to exercise caution at deviations and corners. Drivers of hooded vehicles will be warned that care is needed at the Customs Gates.
20. BREAKDOWNS. Arrangements will be made by SOME 6 Aust Div for a breakdown lorry to travel in rear of convoy.
When practicable, Units which are well forward in the convoy should arrange for towing of any breakdown until contact can be made with LAD at night halt.
If Aus. Inf. Bde will arrange for an empty 30-cwt lorry to travel with the L.A.D., to carry the load of any vehicle which cannot be taken on with the convoy. If a vehicle has to be left, a guard of at least two armed men will be left with it.
21. FUEL FOR COOKING. 23 Inf Bde are arranging for hot water for tea on arrival all parties at ISMAILIA. Sufficient fuel for cooking at ASLUJ and ISMAILIA will be carried under unit arrangements.
22. RETURN OF SURPLUS STORES AND AMMUNITION.
(i) It is imperative that a careful check be made to ensure that NO articles in excess of scales of War Equipment, and of accommodation stores based on full War Establishments, are taken.
(ii) Surplus stores will be handed over to Base Ord Depot as soon as possible. With reference to para 6 of Force Adm Instn 109, return of stores should be completed as far as practicable prior to departure of Main Body of Units. Such stores will be accompanied by A.F. G.1033, and will be bundled for rapidity of checking.
(iii) The following surplus items will be returned to SARAFAND through Base Ord Depot, and Unit Vouchers (G.1033) will be prepared accordingly.
Blankets received from British depots.
Tracer in excess of G.1098 scale for A.A. L.M.Gs.
Remaining articles will be retained at Base Ord Depot, for redistribution as required.
23. RIFLES OF MEN IN HOSPITAL OR CONV DEPOT. Such rifles will be transferred on G.1033 to Aus Gen Base Depot before departure of Units. This will enable Aus Gen Base Depot to re-issue rifles to personnel before despatch to rejoin Units.
24. FIELD KITCHENS AND WATER CARTS. These will be returned to Base Ord Depot.

This is a change

25. LATRINE BUCKETS. All latrine buckets at present held will be returned by Rear Parties to Base Ord Depot in a clean condition. No latrine buckets will be taken.

26. COMFORTS FUND FURNITURE. With the exception of pianos and locally hired wireless sets, all furniture, etc., provided by ACF for recreation and writing rooms will be taken to EGYPT by the units concerned.

Pianos are to be returned by units to Kabolsky & Son, Jaffa Rd., JERUSALEM, and receipts obtained. The receipts will be handed to Chief Commissioner Goward at the Hotel Fast, JERUSALEM.

Wireless sets will be returned by units to Hotel Fast.

27. COMPENSATION OFFICERS. Compensation Officers will finalise as many claims as possible, and will hand over all records and details of outstanding claims to Area Compensation Office r, GAZA Area, before departure.

28. ROAD RECCE. Experience from move of OCTAGON has shown that parts of the road which are under repair between BEERSHEBA and ABU AWEIGLA sometimes are more trafficable than deviations. As the state and position of deviations is continually varying, 17 Aus Inf Bde will arrange for recce of the route as far as ABU AWEIGLA to be carried out on 9 Sep, and for necessary instructions arising therefrom to be promulgated.

J. W. Woodward Maj
for Colonel;
A.A. & Q.M.G. 6 Aus Div.

CR/Pal/16688/Q.

26th August, 1940.

G.H.Q., M.E.
H.Q., B.T.E.
17 Aus Inf Bde.
1 Aus Corps.
6 Aus Div.

D.A.D.O.S. Sarafand.
D.A.D.O.S. Haifa.
C.R.E., S.P.
O.C., R.A.S.C. Services, Palestine.
C., R.A.S.C., S.P.
All Branches, Force H.Q.

R.T.O. Gaza.
M.C. Canal Area, Suez.
M.C. Cairo.
M.C. Haifa.
M.C. Lydda.
M.C. Port Said.
M.C. Kantara.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION No. 109.

MOVE OF "SAMBO".

1. GENERAL.

(a) 17 Aus Inf Bde Group will move in accordance with the following instructions.

(b) Units to move will be as follows :-

H.Q. 17 Aus Inf Bde with Inf Bde Signal Section and L.A.D.
2/5, 2/6, and 2/7 Inf Bns.
2/2 Hd. Coy. R.A.E.
~~The~~ 6 Aus Provost Coy. *less four men.*

(c) The Bde Group will move as follows :-

(i) Vehicles by road on 11 Sep 40.

(ii) Personnel by train on 13 Sep 40.

2. ADVANCE PARTY.

An Advance Party from units of 17 Aus Inf Bde will proceed by ordinary train on 11 Sep 40 - Total strength 4 Officers and 40 Other Ranks.

3. MOVE.

3 X (a) Movement Control Order No. 11 giving rail arrangements has been issued separately.

(b) Personnel will entrain at MAJDAL and proceed to KANTARA. All arrangements for the move beyond KANTARA will be made by G.H.Q. MIDDLE EAST.

4 X (c) Hired Transport required for move of personnel and stores to MAJDAL will be demanded by 1 Aus Corps.

(d) Vehicles will move by road in accordance with Movement Table attached at Appendix 'A'.

4. VEHICLES.

- (a) Units will take with them all serviceable vehicles on their charge at the time the move is ordered. Unserviceable vehicles will be returned to Base Ordnance Depot BARBARA.
- 5 X (b) Vehicles will proceed by road with the exception of tracked vehicles, trailers, motor cycles and bicycles which will proceed by train.
- (c) Additional vehicles required for their role on arrival at destination are being issued under instructions of G.H.Q. MIDDLE EAST.

5. EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION.

- (a) Units will move on their respective G.1098 scale in so far as equipment in accordance with this scale has been received.

Ammunition in accordance with G.1098 scale will be taken.

- (b) Indents already submitted for deficiencies will be forwarded through Ordnance channels to C.O.O. Base Ordnance Depot ABBASSIA.
- 6 X (c) Tracer ammunition will not be taken but will be returned to D.A.D.O.S. Sarafand.
- (d) The balance of equipment required for their role at their destination is being issued on arrival under instructions of G.H.Q. MIDDLE EAST.
- (e) One month's maintenance of clothing and other ordnance stores peculiar to A.I.F. will be consigned to Base Ordnance Depot.

6. REAR PARTIES.

Rear Parties strength - 1 Officer and 20 Other Ranks per major unit will remain behind to hand over camps and hand in surplus stores. H.Q. 17 Aus Inf Bde., Inf Bde Signal Section and L.A.D. will not leave Rear Parties.

7 X Surplus stores of these units will be handed in by Rear Parties of units to which they are affiliated under instructions issued by 6 Aus Div.

Rear Parties will join their units under instructions to be issued by 1 Aus Corps.

7. PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING UNITS.

- 8 X (a) Officers and Other ranks extra-regimentally employed will NOT be relieved. Officers and Other Ranks on the staff of schools and depots or undergoing courses will NOT accompany units.

(b) Personnel undergoing medical treatment and NOT considered fit to travel will remain.

(c) Personnel undergoing detention at 2/1 Aus Detention Barracks will be disposed of similarly. Personnel for return to AUSTRALIA (S.N.L.R) and personnel for the formation of Aus H.Q. Guard will be transferred to Australian General Base Depot in accordance with instructions issued separately by 1 Aus Corps.

(d) All personnel on the strength of units less those in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above will accompany units.

8. BLANKETS.

9 X

2 Blankets per man will be taken.

9. PERSONAL CLOTHING.

Other Ranks will take with them all their personal clothing and equipment.

10. ANTI-GAS CLOTHING.

No anti-gas clothing and equipment is available for issue in PALESTINE and is being issued under instructions of H.Q., B.T.E. on arrival.

11. WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION FOR JOURNEY.

The following weapons and ammunition will be carried by personnel proceeding by train.

- (a) On the man :- 1 Rifle and 50 rounds S.A.A.
- (b) Each Platoon :- 1 L.M.G. tripod and 1000 rounds S.A.A.
- (c) All other weapons and ammunition will be carried in vehicles proceeding by road.

12. STATIONERY OFFICE EQUIPMENT.

War stationery box on A.F.L.1398 will be taken.

13. MEDICAL.

10 X

- (a) Unit medical equipment will be taken.
- (b) Medical Officers will accompany units.

14. WATER.

Trucks water 15-cwt will carry the following :-

(a)

(a) In the case of metafilter trucks :-
24 tins metasil.
8 tins sterilising powder.
500 tablets ammonium chloride.

(b) In the case of clothfilter trucks :-
18 tins clarifying powder.
8 tins water sterilising powder.
400 tablets ammonium chloride.

15. RIDERS.

Riders will be disposed of prior to the move under instructions issued by 1 Aus Corps. Details of disposal will be forwarded to D.A.D.R. Force H.Q.

16. PERSONAL BAGGAGE.

(a) C.Os. and Officers 200 lbs each.
W.Os. 50 lbs each.
Other Ranks Sea Kit bags and
universal Kit bags.

17. PAY.

Separate instructions will be issued regarding pay.

18. TENTAGE AND ACCOMMODATION STORES.

Tentage and accommodation stores at present on charge will be taken to EGYPT.

Sandfly nets will be returned to Aus Base Ordnance Depot, BARBARA.

19. FOWLER STOVES.

Fowler stoves at present on charge will be taken to EGYPT. Wood fuel is being supplied by G.H.Q., MIDDLE EAST.

SH/TM
11-5-52

Brigadier,
i/c Administration,
British Forces in Palestine & T.J.

SH/TM.

S A M B O

W SECRET.

MOVEMENT TABLE - ROAD PARTIES.

APPENDIX "A".

Issued with Force H.Q. Administrative Instruction No. 109 dated 26th August, 1940.

Serial No.	UNIT	No. of Vehicles.	STAGE 1.		STAGE 2.		STAGE 3.			STAGE 4.				
			To ASLUJ.	ASLUJ-	ABU AWEIGLA	ABU AWEIGLA-ISMAILIA	ISMAILIA-HELWAN.							
			Date	Dep.	Arr.	Date	Dep	Arr.	Date.	Dep	Arr.	Date	Dep.	Arr.
										East	West			
										(Tail)				
<i>Comd.</i> <i>Bde 7.0</i>	1 H.Q. 17 Aus Inf Ede & Sig Sec	11	11 Sep											
<i>T.O.</i>	2 2/5 Bn.	4	11 Sep	1300	1620	12 Sep	0600	0900	12 Sep	0930	1530	1830	13 Sep	0700 1300
<i>T.O.</i>	5 2/6 Bn.	4	11 Sep											
<i>T.O.</i>	4 2/7 Bn.	5	11 Sep											
	5 2/2 Fd. Coy & L.A.D.	12	11 Sep	1310	1630	12 Sep	0710	1010	12 Sep	1040	1640	2150	13 Sep	0710 1310

(Issued with Force H.Q. Administrative Instruction
No. 109 dated 26th August, 1940).

Reference Maps. SINAI 1:250,000 Sheets RAFA, PORT SAID, SUEZ.

1. GENERAL.

Road Parties SAMBO will move in accordance with the Movement Table attached.

2. ROUTE.

Present areas - GAZA - BEERSHEBA - ASLUJ - ABU AWEIGLA - ISMAILIA - CAIRO - HELWAN.

3. STAGES AND DISTANCES.

Move will be made in three stages.

STAGE 1. Present Areas - ASLUJ. Distance GAZA-ASLUJ 45 miles.

STAGE 2. ASLUJ - ABU AWEIGLA. Distance 34 miles.

STAGE 3. ABU AWEIGLA - ISMAILIA. Distance 141 miles.

STAGE 4. ISMAILIA - HELWAN. Distance 120 miles.

4. SPEED AND DENSITY.

	<u>m.i.h.</u>	<u>v.t.m.</u>
<u>STAGE 1.</u>	20	20.
<u>STAGE 2.</u>	12	20.
<u>STAGES 3 and 4.</u>	25	20.

5. GROUPING OF VEHICLES.

Comds will organise groups of from 16 to 20 vehicles. Such groups will be despatched at intervals of approximately 45 minutes per 20 vehicles. This will reduce congestion at ISMAILIA east of the Canal. Some congestion is inevitable to avoid night driving.

6. DISPERSION.

Maximum dispersion allowed by the ground will be effected at ISMAILIA. Vehicles will NOT close up when halted on the road.

7. HALTS.

On stages 2,3 and 4 all vehicles will halt for 30 minutes after 3 hours driving.

8. MAPS.

12 copies of reference maps will be issued to 6 Aus Div by G.S. 'I'.

17 Ade

9

/9.

RAE

3

9. INTERCOMMUNICATION.

Communication with both EGYPT and PALESTINE can be made from ABU AWEIGLA by phone.

10. RATIONS.

In addition to rations for the duration of the move, 2 days' reserve rations will be carried. Reserve rations will NOT be consumed except under the orders of an Officer, and will be distributed to all vehicles. A proportion of cooks will accompany each unit road party.

11. WATER.

14 X
6 Aus Div will develop water facilities at ASLUJ. All water carrying vehicles, water bottles and radiators will be full on departure from ASLUJ and from ISMAILIA. Each vehicle will carry one 4-gallon tin of water in addition.

12. P.O.L.

6 Aus Div will establish a P.P. at ASLUJ. All tanks will be full on leaving ASLUJ. In addition, one tin of petrol will be carried by each vehicle under 30-cwt, and two tins by each vehicle of 30-cwt and upwards. In emergency, petrol may be obtained from Shell Company's Half-Way Camp at Kilo 110.

13. MEDICAL.

15 X
6 Aus Div will arrange for 1 M.O. with first aid equipment to travel in the rear convoy.

14. RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS - EGYPT.

H.Q., B.T.E. is being requested to arrange for the following :-

- (a) Reception at ISMAILIA and facilitation of crossing SUEZ Canal.
 - (b) Provision of P.O.L. at ISMAILIA.
 - (c) Control of move beyond SUEZ CANAL.
-

TG

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

Copy No.

Headquarters,
6 Aust Div,
DEIR SUNEID.

3 Sep 40.

GENERAL STAFF INSTRUCTION No. 41.

MOVE OF ROAD PARTIES SAMBO

Reference Force HQ Administrative Instruction No. 109
dated 26 Aug 40 - Appx "A" - Movement Table - Road Parties.

1. INTERCOMN

ABU AWEIGLA - At the Police Station there is telephone
comn with both PALESTINE and EGYPT.

2. (a) MAPS AND ROAD REPORTS. -

Are being issued on the following scale:-

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Road Report</u>	<u>Maps (3) Scale</u> <u>1/250,000</u>
1	HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	I	I Set
2	2/5 Bn	I	I "
3	2/6 Bn	I	I "
4	2/7 Bn	1	1 "
5	HQ RAE 6 Aust Div 2/2 Fd Coy	2	1 "

(b) On completion of march units will -

(i) Return all Maps and Reports to HQ 6 Aust Div.

(ii) Submit details to HQ 6 Aust Div regarding any special
points and difficulties experienced during the march.

JMB

H. Berryman

- Colonel;
GS 6 Aust Div.

Distribution -

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>1 - 2</u>
2	"	3 - 4
3	"	5 - 6
4	"	7 - 8
5	"	9 - 10
Sigs 6 Aust Div	"	11 - 12
G	"	13 - 14
AQ	"	15 - 16
1 Aust Corps	"	17 - 18

H.Q. 17 Aus Inf. Bde.

SEEN BY

Date Initials

- Brig.
- B.M. ✓
- S.C. ✓
- I.O. 2
- L.A.D. 2
- L. 2/5
- L. 2/6
- L. 2/7
- T.O.
- A.S.C.
- G.Q.M.S.

H.Q. 17 Aust Inf Bde

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCECopy No. 2Headquarters,
6 Aust Div,
DEIR SUNEID.

3 Sep 40.

GENERAL STAFF INSTRUCTION No. 41.MOVE OF ROAD PARTIES SAMBOReference Force HQ Administrative Instruction No. 109
dated 26 Aug 40 - Appx "A" - Movement Table - Road Parties.1. INTERCOMNABU AWEIGLA - At the Police Station there is telephone
comm with both PALESTINE and EGYPT.2. (a) MAPS AND ROAD REPORTS. -

Are being issued on the following scale:-

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Road Report</u>	<u>Maps (3) Scale</u> <u>1/250,000</u>
1	HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	I	I Set
2	2/5 Bn	I	I "
3	2/6 Bn	I	I "
4	2/7 Bn	1	1 "
5	HQ RAE 6 Aust Div 2/2 Fd Coy	2	1 "

(b) On completion of march units will -

(i) Return all Maps and Reports to HQ 6 Aust Div.

(ii) Submit details to HQ 6 Aust Div regarding any special
points and difficulties experienced during the march.

W. Berryman
- Colonel;
GS 6 Aust Div.

Distribution -

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>1 - 2</u>
1	1	2
2	"	3 - 4
3	"	5 - 6
4	"	7 - 8
5	"	9 - 10
Sigs 6 Aust Div	"	11 - 12
G	"	13 - 14
AQ	"	15 - 16
1 Aust Corps	"	17 - 18

SECRET DOCUMENTS ETC. TO BE RETURNED TO H.Q., 6 AUST DIV IN
EVENT OF UNITS MOVING FROM PALESTINE.

CODE NAMES - Current list.

UNIT CENSOR STAMPS -

B.F.P. & T.J. - Operational Standing Orders

PALESTINE Place Names and Co-ordinates

Road and Railway diagrams showing code letters

Force Standing Orders 1936-1939

Principal General Orders 1938 - 1939

Military Report on PALESTINE and TRANSJORDAN

All village and route reports

Cipher Equipment

Maps. PALESTINE

INTERPRETERS.

On order to move being issued, arrangements will be made for the employment of all interpreters to be terminated. 6 Aust Div Fd Cash Office will pay them up to date and they will be told to report at Force H.Q., (Lieut. BATTERSBY).

All articles of A.I.F. uniform and passes issued to them will be withdrawn.

PASSES TO CIVILIANS.

Passes issued to civilians will be withdrawn and destroyed. A list will be furnished showing numbers of passes which have NOT been collected, person to whom such pass was issued town or village, nature of employment, and camp at which employed.

H.Q., 6 Aust Div
DEIR SUNEID.

24/8/40.

Route - GAZA - HELWAN (340 Miles).DETAILED REPORT.SECRET

Distance in Miles	Place	Remarks
0	<u>GAZA</u>	The road to BEERSHEBA is for a short distance bitumen surfaced, but later is constructed mostly of white metal, topdressed with dirt and at present extremely dusty. The road surface is good throughout to -
24	<u>BEERSHEBA</u>	Entering the town we pass the War Cemetery on our right, continue for a distance of about 200 yds, turn <u>right</u> near POLICE STATION, then abruptly <u>left</u> into main street. Leaving Beersheba the road turns in a southerly direction, following roughly parallel to the disused Turkish railway. Two well constructed concrete bridges carry the road over a stony Wadi bed. Practically the whole of this road is under repair, many detours exist and care should be exercised in negotiating same.
45	<u>ASLUJ</u>	The road enters <u>BIR ASLUJ</u> passing a well on the right, and the Police Station on the left. This represents the end of the first stage of the journey, and this desert outpost provides a night's rest, food, water and refuelling point for vehicles. All vehicles must be filled to capacity with fuel, and all water carrying vehicles, water bottles, and radiators will be full on departure from Asluj. From here to - EL AUJA (Frontier) The road is very rough on the surface, with loose stones and dangerous sharp bends, considerable care must be exercised by drivers in traversing this stretch of road.
70	<u>EL AUJA</u>	This is the final habitation in PALESTINE before reaching the Egyptian border, and here the Palestine Government Customs and frontier police post operates. Emergency accommodation for 30 persons can be made available, if required. Right at the frontier (indicated by a Boundary Pillar) there is an incomplete bridge over a Wadi, the track across the Wadi at present is good but would become impassable if excessive rain were encountered. From here we travel almost due West towards our next point ABU AWEIGLA, a distance of about 10 miles.
79	<u>ABU AWEIGLA</u>	This is the Egyptian frontier post and here a Customs and Police Post is established, here also, usually, a thorough check of baggage and passports is carried out. Here the new Egyptian (SHELL) Trans Sinai road commences, and runs across the desert, a distance of 141 miles to ISMAILIA. This road which is of bitumen surface throughout, about 18ft wide, approximately 4" thick, has not been graded but laid like a carpet upon the sand in its normal form, resembling strongly a scenic railway. This coupled with

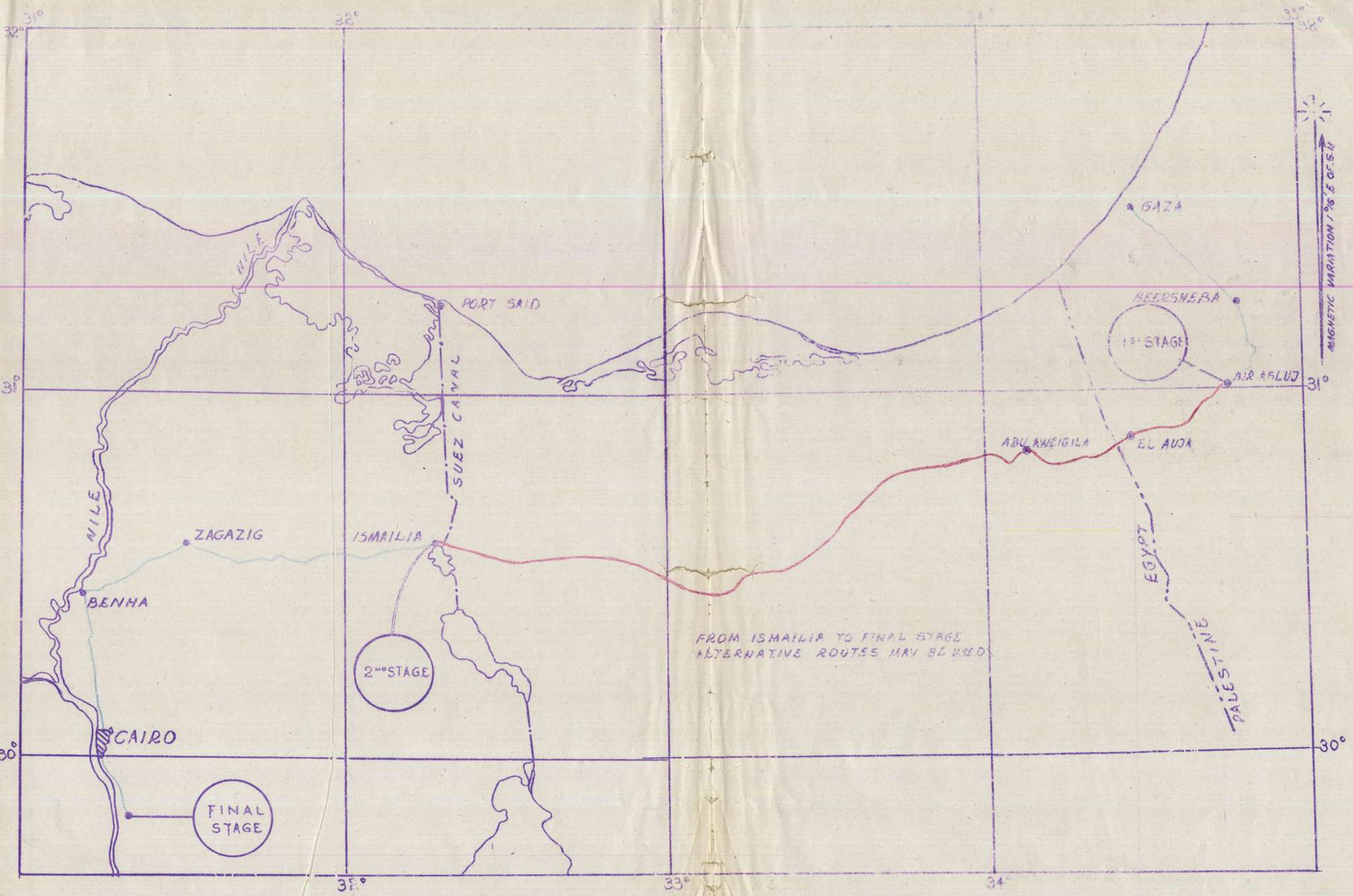
Distance in Miles	Place	Remarks
		patches of "corrugated" surface and blind crests crossing sand dunes (always at right angles) necessitates careful driving, and reduced speed in certain sections. Three hours from Ismailia is located the SHELL Coy halfway camp (KILO 110) where petrol, water, food and accommodation may be obtained
220	<u>ISMAILIA</u>	Arriving at Ismailia a large town on the western side of the canal, which is crossed by Ferry, two vehicles being taken over each trip (approx. 6 per hour) the Customs Officials again operate and all baggage is thoroughly inspected. This completes the second stage of our journey, and here after transfer across the Canal the night will be spent. Here the last stage of the journey commences (120 Miles), the road condition approximating closely the previous stage, the actual speed of the convoy being increased to 25 M.I.H. Five hours travel brings us to -
324	<u>CAIRO</u>	Passing through, we turn due south and travel with the Nile on our right (Pyramids can be seen in the distance across the river) for about 16 miles to our destination.
340	<u>HELWAN</u>	On arrival care should be taken that vehicles do not close up when halting, but slow down and observe carefully instruction by M.C.O.

W. Berreman
Colonel,
G.S. 6 Aust Div.

30 Aug 40

ROUTE (R1)

SECRET



DRN. 8.C

HELWAN CAMP

Notes on Helwan Camp.

1. SITUATION. The Camp which is approximately 16 miles from the centre of Cairo, is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the right bank of the Nile and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles South of the town of Helwan.

2. ACCOMMODATION. A tented camp with hutments provided on same scale as at our Palestine Camps.

Accommodation for approx 4/5ths of a Division.

Holes have been dug for tents in three Bn. lines only.

3. TRANSPORT SERVICES TO CAIRO.

(a) Railway. 3 trains per hour (last train each night from CAIRO not earlier than 0100 hrs.)

1st. Class Return fare -- 4 piastres.

Time of journey - 45 minutes.

Taxi Fare - Camp - Helwan Station - 15 piastres
(Single)

(b) Taxi to Cairo. 75 piastres return.

(NOTE.) a piastre = approx 3.15d.)

4. DISEASES.

No Sandfly Fever or Malaria, but a lot of mosquitoes. Practically NO flies.

V.D. The prevalence of V.D. in this area creates a serious problem, aggravated during the last war by enemy action in introducing infested women. All ranks must be warned of this danger and impressed with the necessity for prevention of the disease.

5. SECURITY.

A British officer, whose Unit was recently camped at Helwan reported that:-

(a) A.A. picquets as for our Camps.

(b) A guard of 2 H.C.O.'s and 6 G.R.'s for whole of a Bn. area.

(c) Arm. and weapon security same as in PALESTINE.

(d) A patrol of 1 H.C.O. and 3 men required to guard water pipe line at night.

6. LIGHTING.

No electric light except for small private plants in Cincinas, therefore Wireless Sets and Kelvinators no use.

Only partial black out enforced by British Ins. Lights permitted in tents.

7. WATER.

Ample service of purified Nile water. Good pressure.

RIFLE RANGE.

14 Classifications/ Rifle Targets at HAADI - (7 miles nearer Cairo.)
However as Camp is on edge of desert one can shoot anywhere for other than Classification purposes.

No Grenade Range.

9. HOSPITAL. A Camp Hospital with accommodation for 16 - 20 beds.

10. COCKHOUSE. Good - 2 Ovens per Bn plus one for each Offrs. and Sgts. Mess.

11. LAUNDRY. A central camp washing service provided.

12. LABOUR -NATIVE Same proportion as in Palestine Camps.

13. H.A.A.F.I. BUILDINGS. Accommodation very good.

14. SHOWERS. Hot and cold, but provided on the scale of approx. 20 showers per Bn only.

Offrs. lines approx. 200 yards from showers in Bn lines

15. LATRINES. Pan Service. Contractor.

16. FLIES. Practically none. (See also para. 4.)

17. SPORTS. No cricket pitches.

All area is sandy.

18. SWIMMING. No swimming is permitted in Nile, but its water which is purified at an elaborate pumping station is pumped into a swimming bath in the centre of the Camp.

Amphib. dimensions. Area of 30 yds x 15 yds., and is 13 feet deep at one end and 6 feet at the other end.

19. CINEMA. Two large open air Cinemas in Camp.

Signed. I.R. Campbell,
Major.

In reply
please quote
S/2599/G.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

S.E.C.R.E.T.
H.Q. 6 Aust Div.
DEIR SUNEID.

24 Aug 40.

The following

- (1) Report on move of 14 Inf Bde from GEDERA PALESTINE to HELWAN EGYPT.
- (2) Recce report on SHELL Road - GAZA to ISMAILIA

are attached for your information.

DISTRIBUTION.

List "A" (All Div Comds)

5 Bn - *[initials]*
 6 Bn - *[initials]*
 7 Bn - *[initials]*
 8 Bn - *[initials]*

[Signature]
 Col.
 G.S. 6 Aust Div.

H.Q. 17 Aus Inf. Bde.

SEEN BY

Date Initials

Brig.
 B.M.
 S.C.
 O.
 A.D.
 2/5
 2/6
 2/7
 O.
 S.C.
 Q.M.S.

[Handwritten marks]

MOVE OF 14th. INFANTRY BRIGADE FROM GEDERA, PALESTINE TO
HELWAN, EGYPT.

1. INTRODUCTORY:

On Wednesday, 29th. May 1940, 14th Infantry Brigade were ordered to move from GEDERA, PALESTINE to HELWAN, EGYPT starting at 0500 hrs on Friday 31st. May, 1940. This report deals with the move by road of Brigade Transport. Attached to this report are Appendices B. and B/1 of CR/PAL/16439/Q dated 11th May, 1940. Appendix B/1 is the move table for the move as far as ISMAILIA. As this part of the move was the most difficult, this report deals mainly with it.

2. CONDITIONS OF ROAD:

The main towns and posts passed through were GAZA, BEERSHEBA, ASLUJ, EL AUJA, BIRABU AWEIGLA. The road from GAZA to BEERSHEBA was good. From then onwards to the EGYPTIAN frontier it became uneven and rocky. From the EGYPTIAN frontier post BIRABU AWEIGLA it became first class except for drift sand on the road as far as ISMAILIA.

3. ROAD MOVEMENT TABLE:

Certain points, as follows, arise as regards to movement table itself. Serial F.1 was given from 0500 hrs on D.1 to 1300 hrs on the same day (1300hrs) to cover the distance of 240 miles m.i.h. (sic). This only allowed one hour to spare for the whole journey. If convoys were to rest every three hours for 30 minutes, at least one more hour would have been needed. Nothing like 20 m.i.h. could be maintained on the very bad road from BEERSHEBA to BIRABU AWEIGLA with the result that speeds had to be increased to as much as 35 m.i.h. after the latter place, where the new EGYPTIAN road begins. Other timings gave more allowance for halts and emergencies but M.T.Os. of all 3 Battalions agreed that more time would have made the move more elastic and reduced the need for fast driving by tired men. From ISMAILIA the road table was so elastic that no difficulty was experienced.

4. FATIGUE:

All drivers stuck the journey remarkably well although in most units there was a scarcity of reserve. In Brigade Headquarters, for instance, only 21 drivers are allowed for 18 vehicles and not all these drivers were present. In Battalions some spare drivers were absent through such causes as sickness and courses. At the time of the move there was a Khamsin blowing strongly. Sand was driving across the road and the temperature was high. The heat for the first part of the journey and the dreariness of the landscape made many of the drivers very sleepy and some fell asleep whilst driving. The Motor cyclists found the journey almost too much, although many of them had breakdowns and were able to put their machines on trucks. At ISMAILIA many drivers were able to get some sleep and this, together with the added interest of the surroundings and the prospects of the near end of the journey made fatigue from thereon a negligible factor.

5. PETROL:

Petrol supplies were good although in one or two cases vehicles ran short. This could largely have been remedied by vehicles completely filling at ASLUJ and taking one spare 4-gallon tin on the vehicle.

6. BREAKDOWNS AND ACCIDENTS:

There was one serious accident in which a 30-cwt turned over and killed the passenger. 2 30-cwt had to be towed by the L.A.D. (this included the one which turned over). Some vehicles were towed within their own serials, the longest tow of this kind being ASLUJ to HELWAN. There were many minor breakdowns all of which were put right on the spot. At least 20 motor cycles had punctures. In one unit 6 motor cycles did not complete the journey owing to lack of spare inner tubes. In connection with accidents it is suggested that the L.A.D. should carry medical first aid equipment.

7. RATIONS:

Although there was no shortage of food there were cases of men missing meals owing to the breakdown of vehicles. This could have been remedied by every vehicle carrying its own reserve of rations. A good meal provided at ISMAILIA would have been welcomed by the troops who had to wait for several hours before their own cooks came up with the slow moving convoys. This was probably caused by the confusion as to the date of arrival mentioned in para 9. The fact remains that the excellent arrangements for the rail party at KANTARA were in marked contrast to the lack of arrangements at ISMAILIA.

8. WATER SUPPLY:

The supply of water in the vehicles and in the water trucks was sufficient. It had been expected that there would have been water at ASLUJ. On arrival there an Australian Unit was found to be in camp. The Commander of this unit stated that he had only enough water for his own troops. The only other means of drawing water was by lowering a petrol tin on a rope down a well. This method was slow and the water was dirty.

9. CONTROL:

Control from GEDERA was easy as all vehicles were present. At ASLUJ, however, it would have been easier if a control post had been established. At BIRABU AWEIGLA the Egyptian Police were suspicious of the first car to arrive and held it up for over twenty minutes whilst they demanded identity cards and passports. If a warning from Force H.Q. was sent to this post it was disregarded. At ISMAILIA there was nobody to meet the column and when H.Q. Canal Brigade were rung up, a private soldier was sent down to meet the head of the column. It finally appeared that H.Q. Canal Brigade had received orders from H.Q. B.T.E. that 14th. Infantry Brigade Transport would not be arriving until 24 hours later than it actually did. Once the transport moved off from ISMAILIA however, the road was straight and all vehicles were well escorted through CAIRO to HELWAN.

10. CONCLUSION:

A report on the condition of the road on the lines of the R.A.S.C. road reports to motorists in ENGLAND would give a tremendous amount of help. An alternative to this is that a recce could have been made by B.T.O.

Motor cyclists should not be taken unless there is a considerable reserve of riders. It is important that a proportion of M.T. 30-cwt lorries should be conveniently placed at the rear of the Serials in case of emergencies. This point was brought out when a truck carrying ammunition of one unit broke down and had to have an escort left with it until it was mended. The journey was in the main fairly satisfactory and was a useful experience.

APPENDIX "B"

ROAD MOVEMENT

GENERAL:

Movement by road will take place on general timings given in Appendix "B"/1.

Movement beyond the Canal will be under instructions to be issued by H.Q., B.T.E. and G.H.Q., Middle East.

ROUTE AND DISTANCES:

	<u>Miles</u>
GEDERA - GAZA - BEERSHEBA	50
BEERSHEBA - ASLUJ	15
ASLUJ - AUJA - desert road to	<u>175</u>
Total	<u>240</u>

MAPS:

Two maps per unit will be issued by G.S. (I) Branch, Force H.Q. immediately prior to move.

GROUPING:

- (a) Units will move as detailed by O.Cs. to ASLUJ Staging Camp.
- (b) Beyond ASLUJ vehicles will be grouped into convoys, each under command of an officer, each consisting of from 18 to 20 vehicles. Convoys will be classified as FAST, consisting of M/Cs not required for use with the Slow convoys, 15-cwt and smaller vehicles, and SLOW, consisting of the remainder.
- (c) The object of this grouping is to facilitate driving and to prevent congestion at ISMAILIA ferry, the capacity of which is 12 vehicles per hour only. Special care will be taken to avoid congestion at this ferry by use of forward recce by M/Cs or light vehicles.

INTERCOMMUNICATION:

- (a) A civil line connecting with EGYPT and PALESTINE is at Police Post ABU AWEIGLA about 50 miles beyond ASLUJ.
- (b) Wireless of Brigade Sig. Sec. will be distributed within the Brigade for use in emergency only should distances permit. Operators should listen at stated hours.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Staging Camp - ASLUJ. Facilities exist at ASLUJ for bivouacs. Water is piped to water points. Cookhouse shelters and latrines have been erected.

WATER:

Units will leave GEDERA with all water carrying vehicles full and each convoy will ensure that water bottles, radiators and other water containers are full before leaving ASLUJ.

RATIONS AND MESSING:

(a) Units will be self-contained for two days before leaving GEDERA and will carry in addition two days reserve rations.

(b) Unit meals and haversack rations will be arranged to fit into the timings of the convoys. These have, however, been arranged as far as possible to allow cooking at GEDERA, ASLUJ and ISMAILIA. At the latter place it is suggested that the leading unit may be able to assist those following by the preparation of breakfast on D.2.

P.O.L.:

(a) All vehicles will leave GEDERA with tanks full and oil and lubricants complete.

(b) Under orders to be issued by A.D.S.T., Force H.Q., seven R.A.S.C. 30-Cwt. lorries each containing 380 gallons of petrol and appropriate quantity of oil will be attached as under - subject to any modification made by the Bde Comd. for the move:-

Bde H.Q.	-	1
Each Bn.	-	2

One lorry of rear Bn. will carry reserve petrol for L.A.D.

(c) Careful attention will be paid to the packing of tinned petrol in lorries to avoid waste on bad roads.

(d) Petrol for any journey beyond ISMAILIA will be under arrangements H.Q., B.T.E.

Recovery: L.A.D. will assist in breakdowns of both B and R.A.S.C. vehicles.

Medical: One ambulance are with M.O. and attendant detailed by D.D.M.S. will be attached to each Bn.

RETURN OF R.A.S.C. VEHICLES:

R.A.S.C. lorries and ambulance cars after arrival in Canal area, will return to this command by road under instructions to be issued by H.Q., B.T.E.

ROAD TABLE MOVEMENT

UNIT	Dep. GEDERA	Arr. ASLUJ	Number of vehicles excl. M/cs. proceeding.		Dep. LUJ		Arr. FERRY EAST	Arr. WEST BANK
			FAST 15-cwt & smaller.	SLOW Amb. Car 30- cwt. & larger.	Fast Convoy 20 M.P.H.	Slow Convoy 15 M.P.H.		
Bde H.Q. Sig. Sec. R.A.S.C. attd 2 Y & L R.A.S.C. attd Amb. Car.	D.1 0500	0900	14 7	2 2 1	F (1) 0910 F (2) 1100 F (3) 1310	S (1) 1110	1800 D.1 2000 2300 0100 D.2	2000 hrs. 2200 " 0100 " 0200 "
			<u>74</u>	<u>20</u>				
1 S. Stafford's R.A.S.C. attd. Amb. Car	D.1 0800	1200	53	12 2 1	F (4) 1600 F (5) 1800 F (6) 2000	S (2) 1810	0200 D.2 0400 0600 0800	0400 hrs. 0600 " 0800 " 0900 "
			<u>53</u>	<u>15</u>				
1 K.O.R.R. Bde L.A.D. R.A.S.C. attd. Amb. Car.	D.1 1400	1830	53	12 5 2 1	F (7) 2300 D.2 F (8) 0030 F (9) 0200	S (3) 2310 D.2	0900 D.2 1030 1200 1400	1030 hrs. 1200 " 1330 " 1500 "
			<u>53</u>	<u>20</u>				

RECCE report by O.M.E. BASE ORD DEPOT dated 8 Aug 40
on Shell road - GAZA to ISMAILIA.

The following is a brief description of the road leading over the Sinai Desert from GAZA to ISMAILIA, a distance of approximately 224 miles.

The road from GAZA to BEERSHEBA is for a short distance bitumen surfaced. This is quite good; however most of this road is of white metal and has been constantly top dressed with dirt which has been so powdered up with use that it is now a very fine dust, and at present would be very unpleasant for taking a convoy of vehicles over. The surface of the road is quite good throughout.

From BEERSHEBA to ASLUJ (about 36 Kilos)- practically the whole of this road is under repair and an excellent road is being built. The road at present is rough and many detours have to be made; the road and detours are quite passable however and no difficulty whatever was experienced in getting through.

From ASLUJ to EL-AUJA (frontier) approximately 42 Kilos. This road is rough on the surface, with loose stones, but is very solid and is quite sound in dry weather. Right at the frontier there is an incomplete bridge over a wadi. The track cross the wadi at present is good; however in wet weather it would be impossible to cross at this point, and also at many other points along the track if excessive rain was encountered. There are very many sharp bends with loose metal about, and, in there present condition, would be dangerous to some drivers, and care would have to be exercised considerably in Convoy work on some of these corners.

The road from EL AUJA to ISMAILIA is for about two miles a white metal road in excellent condition; from there on to ISMAILIA is bitumen surface throughout. The bitumen road is approximately 255 Kilos; it is about 18 ft. wide and is a bitumen and sand mixture about 4 inches thick; the surface generally is good but in some cases is breaking up. The road has not been graded off and has just be put down over the sand in its normal form; therefore the road is somewhat like a scenic railway, up and down practically the whole way. About one and three-quarters hours from ISMAILIA there is a Shell rest-house where cool drinks, beer, etc. can be obtained off the ice. Foodstuffs can also be obtained at reasonable prices; there is also reasonably good accommodation available at five or six shillings per night and up to thirty (30) persons can be accommodated. The Canal is crossed by ferry, two cars taken over each trip. Customs Officials operate at ISMAILIA ferry and all baggage is inspected thoroughly. Petrol and Oil are available at Shell rest-house and at BEERSHEBA. Hospitality of the frontiersmen at each of these outposts is very good; they are only too pleased to supply you with the usual cup of tea or coffee.

For convoy work from SUEZ, I would suggest that it would be too much to bring a convoy from SUEZ to BARBARA in one day. I suggest that a convoy could be moved off from SUEZ on the first day and the canal crossed at ISMAILIA; with a convoy of 40 trucks it would take about 2½ to 3 hours to get them across the Canal; they could then proceed to the Shell rest-house and spend the night, and proceed with the journey in easy stages next day. This would make the journey a two day trip in easy stages. At the present time the road is quite in order for convoy work, providing care was exercised on some of the loose metal areas, and the badly surfaced bends. Sand drifts are plentiful along the track from the Frontier to ISMAILIA; workmen are constantly employed keeping these off the road.

DURING PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE OF THE JOURNEY A CONVOY WOULD BE VERY MUCH EXPOSED TO HOSTILE AIRCRAFT AND THERE IS NO SHELTER WHATEVER AT ANY STAGE OF THE JOURNEY.

Notes on New Trans Sinia (Shell Road) from Jerusalem to Ismailia

1. Length: From Palestine Egyptian Frontier just West of EL AUJA to No. 6 Ferry crossing of Suez Canal ISMAILIA.: 226 Kms. or 141 miles. Generally level, some short steep gradients over dunes but no long hills.
2. Width: About 6 metres or 18 feet.
3. Surface: Reasonably smooth, plastic black asphalt. The road however is "wavy in places" and a fore and aft oscillation set up. This coupled with patches of "corrugated" surface and blind crests crossing sand dunes (which are always at right angles) necessitates careful driving and reduces speed in certain sections. The road should by now have settled down and a final top surface is to be applied. It is however considered dangerous to drive at speeds over 75 k.p.h. (45 m.p.h.) and a greater average than 55 (k.p.h.) should not be expected of an ordinary driver.
4. Capacity:
 - (i) No more than 1000 vehicles per day on the road at present and these must be fitted with pneumatic tyres. (the larger the section of these the better)
 - (ii) The through capacity of the road at present is chiefly limited by single small chain ferry at ISMAILIA which takes about 10 minutes for each journey (or say 3 round trips per hour) and carries about 2 lorries or 3 cars each trip.
 - (iii) Normally the ferry does not run after 6 p.m. and therefore unless special arrangements have been made it is essential to reach ISMAILIA before this if a through journey is contemplated.
 - (iv) A further limiting factor is the capacity of the BEERSHEBA - EL AUJA and EL AUJA - SINIA Frontier sections of the through road from JERUSALEM. (The first section may be impassable in bad weather, also the WADI EL AUJA until it is bridged properly).
5. Amenities:
 - (i) Water Except in the WADI EL ARISH where there is a small perennial supply and at a few small native wells (e.g. BIR HAMA, Km 135 - dry in summer.) There is at present NO water supply other than at the ISMAILIA end.
 - (ii) Petrol)
Shelter) Can be obtained from Shell Company
Food) halfway camp at Km 110.
Water)
Repairs)
6. General:
 - (a) The road (black on yellow - white background) is a conspicuous landmark from the air. There is generally no cover from the air.
 - (b) Vehicles fitted with low pressure tyres can run along side the road almost everywhere (except over bad dunes) as could tanks and tracked vehicles. In this case there would be a lot of dirt giving away traffic and sand filters and spaced traffic are necessary.
 - (c) Trouble may be caused by drift sand which will be caused by high winds, and care should be taken over blind crests.

18

Administrative Instruction No. 9.

HQ. R.A.E. 6 Aust Div.	
2/2 Fd Coy.	
2/5 Bn.	
2/6 Bn.	
2/7 Bn.	
6 Aust Pro Coy.	
War Diary	2
File	1

Move of SAMBO.

1. General

- (a) 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Gp will move in accordance with these instructions which consolidate Force and 6 Aust Div Instructions and local administrations.
include
- (b) The Units to move will be -
H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. "K" Sec Sigs . 46 L.A.D.
2/5, 2/6, 2/7 Inf. Bns.
HQ. R.A.E. 6 Aust Div.
2/2 Fd Coy. R.A.E.
6 Aust Pro Coy less four Secs.
- (c) The Bde Gp will move -
(i) Vehicles by road on 11 Sep.
(ii) Personnel by train on 13 Sep.

2. Advance Party.

- (a) An advance party will proceed by ordinary train on 11 Sep.

Composition.

<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O/R.</u>
HQ. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.	-	1
"K" Sec Sigs	-	-
46 L.A.D.	-	1
2/5 Bn.	1	11 x
2/6 Bn.	1	11
2/7 Bn.	1 †	10
HQ. R.A.E. 6 Aust Div.	-	1
2/2 Fd Coy.	1	4
6 Aust Pro Coy.	-	1

x. Includes one Cook
+ Major.

- (b) The senior officer detailed by 2/7 Bn will be O.C. Advance Party.
- (c) 2/5 Bn. will provide the necessary cooking gear packed for transport. This will be taken on the train. An oven is available at HELWAN.
- (d) O.C. Advance Party will obtain rail warrants from Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde and all Units will report at MAJDAL Railway Station at 11.30 hrs.
- (e) 2/5 Bn will forward ration indents for 44 Rations Advance Party for 12/13 Sep. to H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde by 7 Sep. marked "CONSUMPTION ON ARRIVAL". Units will submit indents for consumption 14, 15, 16 Sep by 10 Sep. Indent for 14 Sep. to be marked "CONSUMPTION ON ARRIVAL"

3. Move. (a) Movement Control Order No.11 giving rail arrangements will be issued separately when received by 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.
- (b) Personnel of all Units will entrain at MAJDAL.
- (c) Immediately after receipt of Movement Control Order No.11, Units will submit requisitions to A.A.S.C. through H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde for tpt of personnel and stores to MAJDAL. Numbers of vehicles should be kept to a minimum by increasing the number of trips as far as is practicable
- (d) Movement Table for road movement issued as Appen "A" to this instruction.

4. Vehicles. (a) Units will take with them all serviceable vehicles on charge at the time the move is ordered. Unserviceable vehicles will be returned to Base Ordnance Depot, Barbara.
- (b) O.C. 46 L.A.D. and T.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde will arrange with Adjutants of all units to inspect vehicles prior to 10 Sep.
- (c) Vehicles will proceed by road with the exception of tracked vehicles, trailers, Motor Cycles and bicycles which will proceed by train.
- (d) T.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde will detail the number of Motor Cycles required to proceed by road for Convoy Control. And the number of spare motor cycles to be carried in vehicles. The allotment will not exceed one third of total cycles and relief riders will be taken. Riders will be changed at NOT less than three hourly halts.

5. Equipment and Ammunition (a) (i) All G 1098 scale equipment held will be taken.
 (ii) G 1098 scale Ammunition will be taken.
 (iii) Tracer Ammunition in excess of G1098 scale will be returned to D.A.D.C.S. Sarafand through Base Ordnance Depot.
- (b) Rifles of men in Hospital or Conv Depot will be transferred on G1033 to Aust Gen Base Depot before departure of units. Depot will reissue to personnel before rejoining Units.

6. Rear Parties. (a) Rear parties will be left as per following schedule to hand over surplus stores to B.O.D. and Camps to D.C.R.E.

<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O/R.</u>
2/5 Bn.	1	20
2/6 Bn.	1	20
2/7 Bn.	1	20
2/2 Fd Coy	To be detailed by HQ. R.A.E 6 Aust Div.	

- (b) Officers in charge rear parties will obtain undated rail warrants from Camp Comdts.
- (c) 2/5 Bn rear party will hand over surplus stores and camp of H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.
- (d) 2/2 Fd Coy R.A.E. will hand over surplus stores and camp of HQ. R.A.E. 6 Aust Div.
- (e) 2/6 Bn will include one cook and leave sufficient cooking equipment and indent for total rear party BEIT JIRJA on 11 Sep for consumption 14 Sep.

Rear Parties Continued.

- (f) 2/2 Fd Coy R.A.E. will make own arrangements for messing.
- (g) Rear Parties will join their Units under instructions to be issued by 1 Aust Corps.

7. Personnel accompanying Units.

- (a) The following will not accompany units.
- (i) Officers and other ranks undergoing schools and courses.
- (ii) Personnel undergoing medical treatment and NOT considered fit to travel. They will be evacuated to 1 Aust Gen Hosp. on 12 Sep.
- (iii) Personnel undergoing detention at 2/1 Aust Deten Bks.
- (iv) Nominal rolls to cover personnel left under this para will be forwarded to Offr i/c Records 2nd Echelon on 12 Sep.

8. Blankets.

- (a) Two Blankets per man will be taken and excess returned. When stocks within Units permit, Australian blankets will be issued to replace British blankets in possession of personnel before handing in excess.

9. Personal Clothing

- (a) Other ranks will take with them all their personal clothing and equipment.

10. Weapons and Ammunition for Journey

- (a) The following weapons and ammunition will be carried by personnel proceeding by train.
- (i) On the man : 1 rifle and 50 rounds S.A.A.
- (ii) Each Platoon : 1 L.M.G., tripod, and 1000 rounds S.A.A.
- (iii) Officers : Pistol and twelve rounds S.A.A. (where pistols issued)
- (iv) All other weapons and ammunition will be carried in vehicles proceeding by road.

11. Stationery Office Equipment.

- (a) War stationery box on A.F.L. 1398 will be taken.

12. Medical.

- (a) Unit medical equipment will be taken. One weeks supply as for training camps of stock mixtures, dressings, etc will be taken.
- (b) Medical Companions and Surgical Haversacks will be carried with train parties and a First Aid Kit with unit transport.
- (c) V.D. Further talks on prophylaxis against Venereal Disease will be given to all troops, 250 Condoms and E.P. packets will be indented for and taken.
- (d) Motor Ambulance. One motor ambulance from 2/2 Fd. Amb with one M.O. and two drivers will report to H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde at 1100 hrs 11 Sep to move with road party and will report to H.Q. 5 Aust Div on completion of move.

Medical continued.

(e) Unit M.Os will move with Units by train.

13. Water.

(a) Trucks Water 15 cwt will carry the following:-

(i) In the case of Metafilter trucks -

24 tins metasil
8 tins sterilising powder
500 tablets Ammonium Chloride

(ii) In the case of clothfilter trucks -

18 tins clarifying powder
8 tins water sterilising powder
400 tablets Ammonium Chloride

(b) Units will indent immediately on A.A.S.C.

14. Personal
Baggage

(a)	Officers	-	200 lbs each
	W.Os	-	50 lbs each
	ORs	-	Sea and Universal Kit Bags.

15. Tentage and
Accommodation
Stores.

(a) All tentage and accommodation stores will be taken except -

- (1) Buckets Latrine (To be returned to B.C.D. clean, by Rear Party.
- (2) Sandfly Nets
- (3) Field Kitchens
- (4) Water Carts

(b) A careful check must be made to ensure that NO articles in excess of W.E. and Accommodation Stores based on full War Establishment are taken.

Surplus stores must be returned as early as possible and as little as possible left for handling by rear parties. Stores must be accompanied by A.F.G 1033 and small stores bundled to assist in checking.

16. Censor Stamps.

Will be retained by Units.

17. Interpreters

Interpreters will report to 6 Aust Div Fd Cash Office on 12 Sep or before if Units no longer require their services. They will be paid up to the date of their discharge and issued with instructions that, if they desire to be registered for further employment they will report to Force H.Q. All Government clothing and equipment will be returned.

18. Secret
Documents
and Maps

These will be returned to H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde by 0900 hrs 12 Sep.

I.O. 17 Aust Inf. Bde will return them to 1 Aust Corps They will include -

- (1) Code name list XIII
- (2) Maps Palestine
- (3) Cipher Equipment.

19. Civilian Passes

(a) To be withdrawn and destroyed. A list will be furnished by each unit to 1 Aust Corps by 1200 hrs 14 Sep showing.

- (1) No of passes not collected.
- (2) Persons to whom such passes were issued
- (3) Nature of employment
- (4) Camp at which employed.

(b) Civilian employees retained for cleaning will be paid off by Fd Cash Office under arrangements to be made by O.Cs rear parties.

20. Comforts Fund Furniture.

(a) With the exception of pianos and locally hired wireless sets all furniture etc provided by A.C.F. for recreation and writing rooms will be taken by units.

(b) Pianos will be returned to Kaboisky & Son Jaffa Rd Jerusalem and receipts obtained. Radio sets will be returned to Hotel Past and receipts for pianos handed to Chief Commissioner Seward.

(c) T.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde will arrange for return of pianos and radios from Beit Jirja on 9 Sep.

21. Compensation Officers.

Unit Compensation Officers will finalise as many claims as possible and Compensation Officer 17 Aust. Inf. Bde will arrange to hand over any outstanding claims to Area Compensation Officer by 10 Sep.

22. Pay

Units will arrange pay for advance and road parties before they move. Normal pay day will cover requirements of main body.

23. Striking of Camp.

Units at Beit Jirja will strike tents on the morning of 12 Sep and will bivouac on night 12/13 Sep. Further instructions will be issued on receipt of Movement Order.

Jacobsen
 Capt.,
 Staff Capt., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued with 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Administrative Instruction No. 9

Dated 3 Sep 40.

Reference Maps.

SINAI 1 : 250,000 Sheets
RAFA, PORT SAID, SUEZ and GAZA
Sheet 1-100,000

1. Movement Table.

Starting Point - Ref Map GAZA.
Sheet 1-100,000 - Brown House 10861110

Serial 1. H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde, Sig Sec,
6 Aust Pro Coy less four Secs

Serial 2. H.Q. R.A.E. 6 Aust Div, 2/2 Pd Coy.

Serial 3. 2/5 Bn.

Serial 4. 2/6 Bn.

Serial 5. 2/7 Bn., 46 L.A.D. and Motor Ambulance.

2. Route.

Present Areas - GAZA - BERSHEBA - ASLUT
- ABU AINEICLA - ISMAILIA
- CAIRO - HELWAN.

3. Command.

Lieut. N.O. Champion T.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde will Command.

Serial Commanders.

Serial 1. Lieut F. Cox "K" Sec Sigs, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde

Serial 2. To be detailed by C.P.E.

Serial 3. Lieut H.C. Sweet 2/5 Bn.

Serial 4. Lieut P.B. Hayes 2/6 Bn

Serial 5. Lieut J.F. Young 2/7 Bn.

4. Grouping.

Each serial will represent one group and the departure times set out in the movement table will reduce congestion at ISMAILIA east of the Canal as much as possible. Some congestion is inevitable to avoid night driving.

5. Dispersion.

Maximum dispersion allowed by the ground will be effected at ISMAILIA. Vehicles will NOT close up when halted on the road.

6. Halts.

On stages 2, 3, and 4 vehicles will halt for 30 minutes after three hours driving.

7. Maps.

Maps of the route will be issued to all serials by 6 Aust Div.

8. Water ASLUJ HQ. R.A.F. 6 Aust Div will ensure that water facilities at ASLUJ are available from 1600 hrs 11 Sep. until 46 L.A.D. clears on 12 Sep.
9. Ambulance. The Ambulance will travel at rear and at times may be some hours behind Serial 1. Should medical assistance be required a M.C. orderly or vehicle will be sent back.
10. Intercommunication. Communication with both EGYPT and PALESTINE can be made from ABU AWEIGLA by phone from the Police Station.
11. Rations. (a) In addition to rations for the duration of the move 2 day's reserve rations will be carried. Reserve rations will NOT be consumed except under orders from a Serial Commander and will be distributed to all vehicles.
(b) A cook and Cooking gear will be provided by the Major Unit in each Serial.
(c) Units will submit indents on 8 Sep for consumption 12/13 Sep to be marked TREE RATIONS.
12. Water. All water carrying vehicles, water bottles, and radiators will be full on departure from ASLUJ and from ISMAILIA. Each vehicle will carry one 4 gallon tin of water in addition.
13. P.O.L. 6 Aust Div will establish a P.P. at ASLUJ. All tanks will be full on leaving ASLUJ. In addition one tin of petrol will be carried by each vehicle under 30 cwt, and two tins by each vehicle of 30 cwt and upwards. In emergency petrol may be obtained from Shell Company's Half Way camp at KILO 110.
14. Reception Arrangements EGYPT. HQ. B.T.E. is being requested to arrange -
(1) Reception at ISMAILIA and facilitation of crossing SUEZ CANAL
(2) Provision of P.O.L. at ISMAILIA.
(3) CONTROL of move beyond SUEZ CANAL.
15. Advance Liaison Lieut I.H. Lowen M.C. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde will report to 23 Inf. Bde at ISMAILIA for liaison duty during crossing of SUEZ CANAL. Lieut Lowen will proceed by ordinary train on 10 Sep.
16. Loading of Vehicles. Units will load vehicles with War Equipment and not with Accomodation Stores. Care will be taken that vehicles are NOT overloaded.
17. Driving Orders All drivers will be warned to exercise caution at deviations and corners. Drivers of loaded vehicles will be warned that care is needed at the Customs Gates.

SANBO.

SECRET.

Movement Table - Road Parties.

Issued with 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Administrative Instruction No.9 Dated 3 Sep 40.

Serial No.	Unit.	Approx No of vehicles	Stage 1. 45 miles TO ASLUJ (From Gaza)				Stage 2. 34 miles ASLUJ - ABU AWEIGLA					
			Date	Depart	Arrive	m.l.h.	u.t.m.	Date	Depart	Arrive	m.l.h.	u.t.m.
1.	HQ.17 Aust.Inf.Bde "K" Sec Sigs 6 Aust.Pro.Coy less 4 secs	7 2 7	11 Sep	1300	1620	20	20	12 Sep	0530	0830	12	20
2.	HQ.R.A.E. 6 Aust Div 2/2 PA Coy.	7 10 and 3.	11 Sep	1310	1630	20	20	12 Sep	0620	0920	12	20
3.	2/5 Bn.	17	11 Sep	1320	1640	20	20	12 Sep	0710	1010	12	20
4.	2/6 Bn.	17	11 Sep	1340	1650	20	20	12 Sep	0800	1100	12	20
5.	2/7 Bn. L.A.D. 46 and Motor Ambulance	16 4	11 Sep	1350	1700	20	20	12 Sep	0850	1150	12	20

Stage 3. ASU AWEIGLA - 141 miles. Arrive ISMAILIA.						Stage 4. ISMAILIA - 120 miles. HELWAN.				
Date	Depart.	East	West. (Rail)	m.i.h.	u.t.m.	Date.	Depart.	Arrive.	m.i.h.	u.t.m.
12 Sep.	0900	1500	1700	25	20	13 Sep	0700	1300	25	20
12 Sep.	0950	1550	1915	25	20	13 Sep.	0710	1310	25	20
12 Sep.	1040	1640	2130	25	20	13 Sep.	0720	1320	25	20
12 Sep.	1130	1730	2345	25	20	13 Sep.	0730	1330	25	20
12 Sep.	1220	1820	0200 13Sep	25	20	13 Sep.	0740	1340	25	20

H.Q., 17 Aust Inf Bde.,
BEIT JIRJA,
10 Sep 40.

Road reconnaissance for the movement of M.T. Vehicles of GAZO on stages 1 and 2 of the trip by road from GAZA district to HEJWAN.

Carried out by Lieut H. O. Champion, B.F.O., 17 Aust Inf Bde and Lieut L.R. Shave, I/O., 2/5 Bn., from Chev. Sedan, 9 Sep 40.

Weather. Fine and Dry

Map Reference. Route (R.1) issued by 6 Aust Div.

PART I.

Stages I & II of R.1., are passable to all types of military M.T.

The roads vary considerably being classed as A.1. in some places while only A.2. or A.3 in others.

Many parts of the road are either under construction or in repair but in all cases the detours are quite adequate.

There are several bridges along the route, but all are capable of taking the heaviest traffic. The destruction of any one of these would considerably hamper the movement of M.T.

These bridges constitute the only real defiles although the embanked section of the GAZA-BERSHEBA road (Kilom - 104 to 108) and the main street of BERSHEBA may be included under this classification.

Very little cover from air observation is available for the vehicles to disperse and in many places along the route it is impossible for them to do so owing to cuttings, drains, embankments etc.

Traffic control posts and guides are not necessary as the route is clearly defined and the defiles should not cause any congestion.

PART 2.

1. ROUTE :- The route passes through GAZA town then south west to BERSHEBA. Here it turns almost due south to BIR ASMA. This is the first stage.

From BIR ASMA it runs in a westerly direction, crossing the EGYPTIAN-PALSTINIAN frontier at EL AUSA.

Continuing west the EGYPTIAN frontier post of ABU AMRIGIA is reached. This constitutes the second stage.

2. DISTANCES :-

GAZA TOWN	-	BERSHEBA	27 Miles.
BERSHEBA	-	BIR ASMA	13 Miles.
BIR ASMA	-	EL AUSA	25 Miles.
EL AUSA	-	ABU AMRIGIA	22 Miles.

3. ROAD REMARKS GAZA to BERSHEBA. This road can only be classified as A.2. because, although it is wide enough for two streams of traffic in most places, there are several embankments where two streams would be impossible. It will take heavy traffic but is very rough and dusty.

BERSHEBA to BIR ASMA. Along this section of the route are many gangs at work repairing and constructing the road, which at present can be classified as A.2.

The road surface is generally good, but there are bad patches. As a whole, it will take heavy traffic.

BIR ASMA to EL AUSA. This can be classified as A.2. but is very rough. Almost throughout its length it is being re-constructed and therefore several detours are necessary and many patches of loose stones will be encountered.

EL AUJA TO ABU ATIGLA.

Road classification A1. This road is Macadam and is very wide. Already it has developed a number of "soft spots" and these, with the numerous sand drifts, make fast driving dangerous.

Gangs are at work repairing these "soft spots".

4. DETOURS.

GAZA. The Gaza end of the BEERSHEVA road is under repair and the detour follows the JAFFA-GAZA road over the BEERSHEVA road, making two left hand turns in the native village and runs into the BEERSHEVA road just South of the cemetery.

BEERSHEVA - BIR ASLUJ.

Detour at Kilo 117, to the left of the road, keeping well out. It is soft, but passable. Very likely, the road will be open by the time the movement takes place.

This also applies to another detour at Kilo 118.

BIR ASLUJ - EL AUJA.

Detours at Kilos 119, 120, 121 to the left side of road and at Kilo 130, detour to right.

At all these places the road may be usable by the time of the movement.

5. GRADIENTS.

There are a number of rather steep gradients along the route. The main ones are at Kilo 112 on the BEERSHEVA road and at Kilo 143 on the BIR ASLUJ road - EL AUJA road.

Neither of these should prove to be any obstacle.

6. BRIDGES.

The main bridges along the route are met at Kilos 93 and 107 on the BEERSHEVA RD. and at Kilos 89 and 146 on the road between BEERSHEVA and EL AUJA.

These bridges are composed of reinforced concrete and stone and, although the ones at Kilos 93 and 107 are very narrow, they are all capable of taking the heaviest M.T.

7. DEFILES.

Apart from the bridges mentioned in para. 6, the most important defiles are the sections of embanked road, on the way to BEERSHEVA between Kilos 104 and 102.

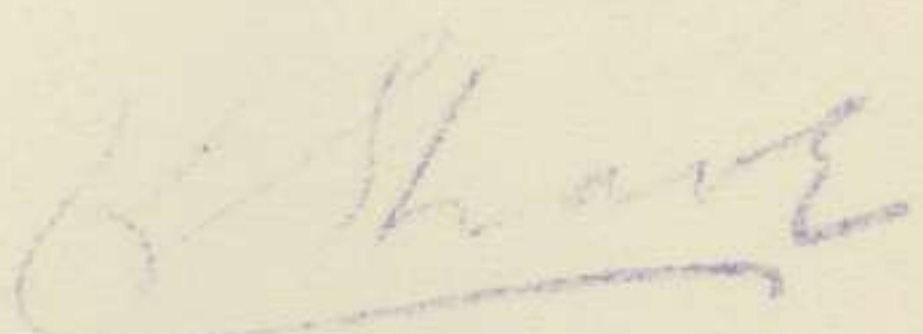
The destruction of any part of these would cause a certain amount of inconvenience but would not hamper the movement as would the loss of one of the bridges.

8. Protection against Air Observation and Dispersion.

No cover, apart from that afforded by the buildings of BEERSHEVA, is available along the route.

In addition, the vehicles are confined to the road, almost the entire way to EL AUJA owing to the numerous cuttings, embankments, ditches and walls of road metal.

From EL AUJA on it is possible to leave the road. The sand is reasonably firm on both sides and will take any weight of traffic.



1.O. 2/5 M. Lieut.

H.Q., R.A.E.,
6 Aust Div.
2/2 Fd. Coy.
2/5 Bn.
2/6 Bn/
2/7 Bn.
2 Aust Pro. Coy.
Pet. Coy. 6 Aust. Div.
War Diary.
File.

APPENDIX 'A'

30

Issued with 17 Aust Inf Bde
Administrative Inst. No 9.,
Dated 3 Sep 40.

Amended Road Movement Table.

GROUP COMMANDERS :-

Group Commanders will be detailed for :-

Serial No 1	by	H.Q., 17 Aust Inf Bde.
" 2	"	G.R.E., 6 Aust Div.
" 3	"	2/5 Bn.
" 4	"	2/5 Bn.
" 5	"	2/6 Bn.
" 6	"	2/7 Bn.
" 7	"	2/7 Bn.

A.A. VEHICLES. :-

A.A. Vehicles and crews will be provided for :-

Serial No 1	by	H.Q., 17 Aust Inf Bde.
" 2	"	2/2 Fd. Coy.
" 32	"	2/5 Bn.
" 4	"	2/6 Bn.
" 5	"	2/6 Bn.
" 6	"	2/7 Bn.
" 7	"	2/7 Bn.

MOTOR CYCLES. :-

Two M/C's provided by H.Q. 17 Aust Inf Bde will be loaded in a vehicle in Serial 1 and one M/C provided by H.Q. 17 Aust Inf Bde and one provided by 2/7 Bn in a vehicle in Serial 2.

REPORTING. :-

Vehicles in Serial 4 will report to 2/5 Bn at 1300 hrs 11 Sep 40.

J. Bishop
.....Capt.
S/Capt., 17 Aust Inf Bde.

SAMBO

MOVEMENT TABLE - ROAD PARTIES.

Issued with 17 Aust Inf Bde., Administrative Instruction No 9., Dated 3 Sep 40

Serial No.	UNIT	Approx No of Vehicles.	Stage 1. To ASLUJ 45 Miles. (From GAZA)				Stage 2. ASLUJ To ABU AWEIGLA. 34 Miles					
			Date	Depart	Arrive	m.i.h.	u.t.m.	Date	Depart	Arrive	m.i.h.	u.t.m.
1	H.Q., 17 Aust Inf Bde 'K' Sect Sigs.	16 2 4	11 Sep	1300	1620	20	20	12 Sep	0530	0830	12	20
2	H.Q. R.A.E., 6 Aust Div. 2/2 Fd Coy. L.A.D. 'A'.	7 10 ¹⁸ 3	11 Sep	1310	1630	20	20	12 Sep	0605	0905	12	20
3	2/5 Bn.	20	11 Sep	1320	1640	20	20	12 Sep	0640	0940	12	20
4	2/5 Bn. 2/6 Bn. 6 Aust Pro Coy.	8 5 4	11 Sep	1330	1650	20	20	12 Sep	0715	1015	12	20
5	2/6 Bn.	20	11 Sep	1340	1700	20	20	12 Sep	0750	1050	12	20
6	2/7 Bn.	20	11 Sep	1350	1710	20	20	12 Sep	0825	1125	12	20
7	2/7 Bn. L.A.D. 46. 2/2 Fd. Amb.	8 3 1	11 Sep	1400	1720	20	20	12 Sep	0900	1200	12	20

NO. RAE

8

Serial No.	UNIT	Approx No Vehicles.	Stage 3. ABU AWEIGLA		141 Miles. ISMAILIA.		Stage 4. ISMAILIA		120 Miles. HELWAN.			
			Date	Depart	Arrive	m.i.h.	u.t.m	Date	Depart	Arrive		m.i.h.	u.t.m
1	H.Q., 17 Aust Inf Bde 'K' Sect Sigs.	16 2	12 Sep	0900	1500E 1715W	25	20	13 Sep	0700	1300	25	20
2	H.Q., R.A.E. 6 Aust Div. 2/2 Fd. Coy. L.A.D. 'A'.	7 10 3	12 Sep	0935	1535E 1930W	25	20	13 Sep	0710	1310	25	20
3	2/5 Bn.	20	12 Sep	1010	1610E 2145W	25	20	13 Sep	0720	1320	25	20
4	2/5 Bn 2/6 Bn 6 Aust Pro Coy.	8 5 2	12 Sep	1045	1645E 0901W 23 Sep	25	20	13 Sep	0730	1330	25	20
5	2/6 Bn.	20	12 Sep	1120	1720E 0815W	25	20	13 Sep	0740	1340	25	20
6	2/7 Bn.	20	12 Sep	1155	1755E 0430W	25	20	13 Sep	0750	1350	25	20
7	2/7 Bn. L.A.D. 46. 2/2 Fd. Amb.	8 3 1	12 Sep	1230	1330E 0645W	25	20	13 Sep	0800	1400	25	20

ARRIVE ISMAILIA - E--East
W--West

H.Q., R.A.E.
2/2 Fd. Coy.
2/5 Bn.
2/6 Bn.
2/7 Bn.
6 Aust Pro Coy.
2/2 Fd Amb (Information)
War Diary (2)
File.

MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER No. 11.
Issued with 17 Aust Infantry Bde
Administrative Instruction No. 9.

14
Wan Swan

5 Sep 40.

MOVE OF SAMBO

- (1) Date. The group will move on night 13/14 Sep.
- (2) Control.
 - (a) Rail moves to KANTARA EAST will be in accordance with Entrainment Tables, 'A' and 'B' attached hereto.
 - (b) Entrainment at MAJDAL will be under the orders of M.C. LYDDA.
 - (c) All arrangements at KANTARA will be under the orders of M.C. KANTARA.
 - (d) Onward move to HELWAN will be under the orders of G.H.Q. MIDDLE EAST.
- (3) Rations.
 - (a) A train ration provided by the unit will be taken for the journey to KANTARA EAST.
 - (b) A hot breakfast will be provided at KANTARA EAST and subsistence during the onward journey will be arranged by G.H.Q. MIDDLE EAST.
 - (c) All ranks will entrain with water bottles filled.
 - (d) Personnel will have their Mess Tins, knives, forks and spoons readily available for use at KANTARA.
 - (e) One day's reserve rations will be taken in case of interference by enemy action.
- (4) Warrants.
 - (a) Rail warrants will in all cases be issued by units as follows:-
Officers, warrant officers and other ranks will be entered 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class irrespective of actual class of travel.
 - (b) Two warrants will be issued - one from MAJDAL to KANTARA EAST and one from KANTARA WEST to HELWAN.
 - (c) Rail warrants for personnel travelling on "Train A" will be issued by M.C. LYDDA.
- (5) Loading. It will be ensured that all box vans are loaded to capacity.
- (6) Universal Kit Bags and Blankets. Universal kit Bags will be loaded on train 'A' on 13 Sep. Blankets will be rolled by sections, labelled, and loaded on train 'A' on 13 Sep.
- (7) Loading of Accommodation Stores and W.E. NOT carried by road. Staff Captain, 17 Aust Inf Bde will mark box cars for each unit at MAJDAL at 1130 hrs 12 Sep. All units may begin loading at 1200 hrs 12 Sep.
- (8) Marking. Where unit identification colors are not marked on boxes the identification transport Number will be clearly marked on all sides of each case.
- (9) Vehicles.
 - (a) Motor Cycles not proceeding by road will be loaded in box vans with accommodation stores.
 - (b) Trailers and tracked vehicles will be loaded on flat cars at GAZA on 13 Sep.
 - (c) Staff Capt. 17 Aust Inf Bde will arrange for towing vehicles to report at 0800 hrs 13 Sep to:-
 - (1) H.Q., R.A.E., QUASTINA - 1 Garage Trailer, 2 Compressors.
 - (2) 46 L.A.D. BEIT JIRJA - 1 Garage Trailer.

- (9) Vehicles. (d) Tracked vehicles will be delivered by units to GAZA RAILWAY STATION by 0930 hrs 13 Sep.
- (10) Train Guards. (a) Units will detail two men to travel with each vehicle
1. on a flat Car on train 'A'.
2. Two men will be sufficient for the car carrying both compressors
(b) 2/6 Bn will detail 1 Officer and 6 O/R's to travel as Train Guard on Train 'A' leaving MAJDAL.
(c) Vans will be sealed and the guard will travel in one box van.
(d) All ranks must carry rations.
- (11) Entraining Officers. (a) Major unit on each train will detail an entraining Officer to report at MAJDAL at the time marked 'ENTRAIN' for the train on which the unit is travelling.
(b) Entraining Officers will collect entraining states from all units travelling before proceeding to MAJDAL.
(c) Staff Capt 17 Aust Inf Bde will arrange for transport of Entraining Officers.
- (12) Buses for Transport (a) Immediately on receipt of this order all units will report to Staff Capt 17 Aust Inf Bde -
(1) The estimated number to entrain after deducting advance and rear parties and road parties.
(2) The number of vehicles required for -
(a) Transport of Stores 12/13 Sep.
(b) Transport of personnel 13 Sep.
H.Q. 17 Aust Inf Bde, H.Q. R.A.E. and 2/2 Fd Coy will work on one lift and other units on two lifts.
(In the case of Inf Units it will be necessary to have two stores vehicles to travel with buses carrying personnel. One for Officers carried baggage and last minute accommodation stores and one for Bren Guns, Tripods and Amm.
- (13) Striking Camps. (a) When tents are struck the heavy soil will be lightly swept off to lessen the weight and size. This will make the cover more suitable for use in EGYPT. A temporary issue Bass Brooms will be available for units at BEIT JIR JA. These must be returned by Rear Parties.
(b) Canteens are being instructed by 1 Aust Corps to clean their own premises. Units must ensure that this is done to avoid extra work for Rear Parties.
(c) All Silt Trenches and Dug out tent positions will be filled in.
- (14) Road Movement. (a) It has become necessary, because of the large number of vehicles at present being issued to units of 17 Aust Inf Bde, to produce an amended Road Movement Table. This will be delivered to units on the afternoon of Monday 9 Sep.
(b) It will be necessary for the major unit in each group to provide one A.A. vehicle and gun crew. This will be detailed in the amended order.
- (15) General. (a) A box van will be provided on train 'B' for carried baggage, H.Q., R.A.E. and 2/2 Fd. Coy.
(b) Box van and Shabacks loaded with carried baggage on train B, C, D, E, will be ferried to the E.S.R.


.....Staff Capt
17 Aust Inf Bde.

Serial No.	Unit or Party.	approx. strength Personnel (excl. road parties and advance and rear parties.		Amm & Baggage. Tons.	Train	Place	Entrainment Particulars.			Arrive KANTARA EAST.	REMARKS.	
		Offrs.	O.R.				Date	Start or Entrain	Finish or loading			Train departs
1.	Baggage & stores of all units not carried in M.T. vehicles.	1	12	300 tons.	A and some wagons on Train B	MAJDAL	-	From 1200 hrs 12 Sep.	1730 hrs 13 Sep	1800 hrs.	0400 hrs. 14 Sep	M/Cs. to be loaded in box vans together with baggage. Estimate of accommodation stores, baggage etc. per Bn. is 80 to 85 tons approx. Initially 33 box vans will be placed for loading. M.C. LYDDA will arrange for additional vans as required above this No. & for their placing.
2.	2/2 Fd. Coy.	4	210	-	B	MAJDAL	.....	1830 13 Sep.	1945	2000	0600	Box wagons of baggage & stores in excess of capacity of Train A will be attached to Train B, which runs on slow timing.
3.	H.Q. 17 Aus. Inf Bde (incl. Sig Sec & L.A.D.).	11	90	-	C	"	.....	2045	2215	2230	0500	
4.	2/5 Bn.	37	720	-	C	"	.....	2045	2215	2230	0500	
5.	2/6 Bn.	35	720	-	D	"	.....	2245	0015	0030	0700	
6.	Provost Coy. (two Secs)	-	32	-	D	"	.....	2245	0015	0030	0700	
7.	2/7 Bn.	37	730	-	E	"	N i g h t 13/14 S e p	0045	0215	0230	0900	

NOTE:- Trains C, D & E are each provided with a "Shabak" to carry approx 12 tons of accompanied baggage, which will be ferried to ESR. These Shabaks will not be available for loading before the time for "Start Entrain".

S E C R E T .

Entrainment Table "B".

Move of S A M B O .

Train No.	Stock to be placed by	At Station.	Time of Depart.	Date of Depart.	Arrive KANTARA	C O M P O S I T I O N .							Serial Nos. to entrain	R E M A R K S .	
						1st class.	1/2 Compo.	2nd class.	Large 3rd.	Small 3rd (Midland).	3/Brake with large passr. compartment.	Shabaks for baggage.			Box Vans.	Flats (Fans)
A	1200 hrs. 12 Sep.	MAJDAL.	1800 hrs	13 Sep	0400								33	1	(Baggage escort travels in box vans. 33 vans make full load for Train A. Additional box vans, as required for baggage of all Serials, will be ordered to be placed by MC LYDDA and will go on Train B.
B	Coaches at 1830 13 Sep.	"	2000 hrs	N i g h t 13/14 S e p	0600		2						5 or more	2, and balance of 1	
C	2045	"	2230		0500	1	1	10		1	1			3 and 4	
D	2245	"	0030		0700	1		2	8	1	1			5 and 6	
E	0045	"	0230		0900	1		2	5	2	1			7	

NOTE:- Train B runs on P. Rlys. normal Goods 83 timing, and will have spare capacity for ordinary commercial traffic.

EMBUSSING TABLE Issued with
17 Aust Inf Bde Administrative Instruction, No 9

Dated 3 Sep 40

Serial No.	Date	Unit.	No. of Personnel.	No. of Vehicles.	Place		Embuss at Hour.	Depart at Hour	REMARKS.
					From	To			
1	13 Sep	H.Q., R.A.E.) 2/2 Pd. Coy.)	208	10	GASTINA	MAJDAL	1750	1740	One 3 ton lorry for carrier baggage reports 1700 hours. Column reports 2/2 Pd. Coy. Orderly Room.
2	13 Sep	H.Q., 17 Aust Inf. Bde and Sig Sect.	78	3	BEIT JIRJA	MAJDAL	2005	2015	One 3 ton lorry for carrier baggage reports 1700 hours. Column reports 17 Aust Inf Bde Orderly Room.
3	13 Sep	2/5 Bn.	657	29	BEIT JIRJA	MAJDAL	2005	2015	Two 3 ton lorries for carried baggage reports at 1700 hours. Column reports, head at 2/5 Officers Mess facing EAST.
4.	13 Sep	2/6 Bn.	610	29	BEIT JIRJA	MAJDAL	2205	2215	Two 3 ton lorries for carrier baggage reports at 1700 hours. Column reports, head at Cinema facing EAST.
5.	13 Sep	6 Aust Pro Coy.	22	1	SARA-PAND.	MAJDAL	2020	2030	Carrier baggage on personnel vehicle.
6.	13 Sep 14 SEP	2/7 Bn.	626	29	BEIT JIRJA	MAJDAL	0005	0015	Two 3 ton lorries for carrier baggage report 1700 hours. Column reports head at 2/7 Bn Orderly Room facing SOUTH.

2/6 and 2/7 Bns will load cooking gear on Train 'C' (Carrying Serials 2 and 3.)

H.Q., 17 Aust Inf Bde.,
 BWIT JIRJA,
 10 Sep 40.

H.Q., R.A.E., 6 Aust Div.,
 2/2 Pk Coy.,
 2/5 Bn.,
 2/6 Bn.,
 2/7 Bn.,
 6 Aust Pro Coy.,
 War Diary,
 File.

EMBUSSING TABLE ISSUED WITH
.....17 AUST INF. BDE. ADMINISTRATIVE
.....INSTRUCTION, No. 9., DATED 5 SEP. 40.

- DRESS. :- Field Standing Orders for Dress must be observed, i.e., shorts and long sleeve shirts between sunset and sunrise. Shorts will be worn on the morning of the 14 Sep.
- EMBUSSING. :- It is stressed that convoys must leave at the time stated and to ensure that delay will not occur baggage lorries have been detailed to report early.
- EMBUSSING OFFICERS. All Units will appoint Embussing and Debussing Officers.
- ROLLS. :- All Units will advise Staff Captain, 17 Aust Inf. Bde., by 0900 hours, 11 Sep. '40, the numbers, '
 - (a) Travelling by road.
 - (b) Travelling by train.
 - (c) Advance parties.
 - (d) Rear Parties.
- REAR PARTIES. :- Officers commanding Rear Parties will communicate with Capt Stewart, A.A.S.G., re transport arrangements for moving parties to train.
- MOVE OF H.Q. :- Staff Captain, 17 Aust Inf. Bde., will remain on duty at BWIT JIRJA till 0001 hours 14 Sep '40.
- H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde., will close at BWIT JIRJA, 0001 hrs 14 Sep '40 and reopen same hour at HUBMAN.

.....*Johnston*..... Capt.,
Staff Capt., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

EMBUSSING TABLE Issued with
17 Aust Inf Bde Administrative Instruction, No 9

Dated 3 Sep 40

Serial No.	Date	Unit.	No. of Personnel.	No. of Vehicles.	Place		Embuss at Hour.	Depart at Hour	REMARKS.
					From	To			
1	13 Sep	H.Q., R.A.E.) 2/2 Fd. Coy.)	208	10	CASTINA	MAJDAL	1730	1740	One 3 ton lorry for carrier baggage report 1700 hours. Column reports 2/2 Fd. Coy, Orderly Room.
2	13 Sep	H.Q., 17 Aust Inf. Bde and Sig Sect.	78	3	BEIT JIRJA	MAJDAL	2005	2015	One 3 ton lorry for carrier baggage report 1700 hours. Column reports 17 Aust Inf Bde Orderly Room.
3	13 Sep	2/5 Bn.	637	29	BEIT JIRJA	MAJDAL	2005	2015	Two 3 ton lorries for carried baggage reports at 1700 hours. Column reports, head at 2/5 Officers Mess facing EAST.
4.	13 Sep	2/6 Bn.	610	29	BEIT JIRJA	MAJDAL	2205	2215	Two 3 ton lorries for carrier baggage reports at 1700 hours. Column reports, head at Cinema facing EAST.
5.	13 Sep	6 Aust Pro Coy.	22	1	SARA-FAND.	MAJDAL	2020	2030	Carrier baggage on personnel vehicle.
6.	13 Sep 14 SEP	2/7 Bn.	626	29	BEIT JIRJA	MAJDAL	0005	0015	Two 3 ton lorries for carrier baggage report 1700 hours. Column reports head at 2/7 Bn Orderly Room facing SOUTH.

2/6 and 2/7 Bns will load cooking gear on Train 'C' (Carrying Serials 2 and 3.)

DETAILS OF TRANSPORT ORDER THAN FOR
PERSONNEL AND CARRIED BAGGAGE
Move of SAMSO

UNIT	TRUCKS REPORTING 0900 HOURS 12 Sep., TILL LOADING OF TRAIN 'A' COMPLETED.	TRUCKS REPORTING 0800 HOURS 14 Sep., TILL REAR PARTIES MOVE.	COMING VEHICLES REPORTING 0800 HOURS 13 Sep.	CARS FOR USE G.O's. REPORTING 1200 HOURS 11 Sep. TILL 1700 HOURS 13 Sep.	
H.C., 17 Aust Inf Bde.	2	-	1	1	
H.A.S., 6 Aust Div.	7	1	1	-	
2/6 Bn	14	2	-	1	
2/8 Bn	12	2	-	1	
2/7 Bn.	12	2	-	1	
6 Aust Pro Coy.	1	-	-	-	