

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

Item number: 8/2/17

17 Infantry Brigade

November 1941

Nov MONTH

DEC 2 1941

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

WAR DIARY

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 17 Aust Inf Bde

1941 YEAR

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O.'s. REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
KFAR AKKA	1-NOV	<p>Bde Comdr and party returned from recce of new positions in the Baalbek area with representatives from 2/3, 2/5, & 2/7 Bns.</p> <p>"A" Coy 2/5 arrived down from the mountains and were established in bivouac area 15982612 ref map Tripoli 1/50,000.</p> <p>An air raid warning was sounded at 1855 hrs. No bombs were dropped in the area and the all clear was given at 1925 hrs. An unidentified plane was engaged by Heavy A/A Arty. 2/3 Bn Dawn Sitrep reported from "C" Coy, air raid warning red 2040 hrs, all clear 2130 hrs, 31st Oct.</p> <p>A dinner party was given to 2/3 Bn officers when fun and frolic prevailed and the ability of officers in scrums was demonstrated without the undue loss of skin.</p>		
"	2-NOV	<p>Another air raid warning at approx 2140 hrs. All clear sounded at approx 2230 hrs. No incident in the area.</p>		
"	3-NOV	<p>Arrangements were made with 6 Div to send Capt Kerr 2/6 Bn to report to 2/8 Bn to assist Capt Picken. The duty being to supervise 2/6 Bn area and to release Capt Picken for liaison duties over Bde sector</p> <p>"C" Coy 2/5 Bn moved down from the mountains and located at position 16022618 near Kfar Akka.</p> <p>A party of Australian nurses from the 2/1 and 2/2 Aust Gen Hospitals were entertained to lunch in the officers messes at Bde H.Q. An itinerary was worked out for their visit by Bde H.Q. Staff and they proceeded to Les Cedres where they were accommodated for the night at the Mon Repos Hotel.</p> <p>Bde Comdr, B.M., S.C., C.O. 2/3 Bn., C.O. 2/5 Bn, and four other officers from each unit attended a cocktail party and dinner at 7 Div H.Q.</p>		<p>Signature <i>W. F. Schepeler</i></p>

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KFAR AKKA	4-NOV	<p>2/5 Bn "B" Coy arrived from mountains to assembly area near Kfar Akka.</p> <p>2/3 Bn "C" Coy on coast watching reported Bofors gun installed at No. 8 post.</p> <p>Movement Order covering move of 2/3 Bn and Bde H.Q. to areas Qatana and El Hame respectively was received during the day. Arrangements were also made for 21 Aust Inf Bde to relieve 17 Bde of port defence duties at El Mina.</p> <p>The party of nurses on their return from their trip in the mountains were entertained to lunch in the officers mess.</p>		
"	5-NOV	<p>Bde H.Q. and 2/3 Bn advance parties left for new H.Q., Bde H.Q. at Edsaya near Damascus and 2/3 Bn at Qatana.</p> <p>Bde Comdr, B.M., and B.I.O. visited the cotton manufacturing plant in Tripoli owned and operated by Mr G.Arida, British Vice Consul and were afterwards entertained to lunch by the Consul.</p>		
"	6-NOV	<p>Bde H.Q. personnel spent a busy day cleaning up and packing ready for move by convoy in the morning.</p> <p>"C" Coy 2/3 Bn on coast watching post were relieved by 2/16 Bn at 1200 hrs.</p>		

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-4/41-G.

Signature.....

H. Schepfer
Lieut.

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KFAR AKKA and EDSAYA	7-Nov	<p>Bde H.Q. convoy moved out from Kfar Akka at 0715 hrs and travelled South via Tripoli, the Coastal Road, and Beirut, and thence over the mountains to their new area at Edsaya (map ref 19531778) near Damascus where they arrived at 1615 hrs. Bde Comdr and B.M. left at 0855 hrs and called at 7 Div H.Q. before proceeding to Beirut at 1040 hrs where they had lunch at the new Officers Club. They arrived at the new location at 1730 hrs. 17 Bde with 2/7 Bn under command were now under their old command 6 Aust Div. 2/3 Bn located at Qatana returned to command of 16 Aust Inf Bde.</p> <p>Thus ended a very profitable and happy association commenced on 29 June when 17 Aust Inf Bde consisting of 2/3 Bn, 2/5 Bn and 2/2 Pnr Bn, was formed to operate in Syria.</p> <p>The fighting around Damour was difficult only by the nature of the country. 7 Div stated in their report that a French General reported he considered the French Foreign Legion to be composed of the toughest and best fighters in the world until he witnessed the advance and fighting abilities of 17 Aust Inf Bde Group at Damour. General Wilson wrote on 10 July, two days before the Armistice, to Bde Comdr congratulating the Group on their job and stated his opinion that it would force the capitulation of the French.</p> <p>July/August were the pressure points during the period of Occupation. The conduct of the troops was most excellent. The difficulties were numerous, the area some 145 miles by 30 to 40 miles wide. Tact was necessary in dealing with the manifold difficulties created in the handling of Vichy French, Free French, local inhabitants and bloody fools of British and Australian Forces who rushed in where angels feared to tread. My Staff were magnificent, they worked long hours and applied the utmost tact to every situation. C.O.s and troops were equally good.</p>	NEW	<p>Signature <i>V. Schepfer</i></p>

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EDSAYA	8-NOV	<p>Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required</p> <p>Bde H.Q. personnel spent the day settling down in their new area. Available cover being occupied by 1 Coy Bde H.Q. personnel were quartered in tents on the high ground overlooking Edsaya with officers mess, orderly room etc located in a group of houses.</p> <p>Bde Int Sec spent a busy day marking maps of the Jabal Mazar and Barada Gorge positions.</p> <p>Standing Orders and Security Instructions were issued.</p> <p>During the day Brigadier had a visit from G2 I and S.C. 10 Corps and in the afternoon with B.M. left to visit 6 Div H.Q.</p> <p>2/5 Bn advance party with carriers arrived in the area.</p> <p>Bde Comdr and B.M. visited 6 Aust Div to look over our defensive area within that sector. Owing to the necessity for Div to cover the flank to a point further south than anticipated and the number of troops available to defend the whole area, some alterations were required on the 17 Bde sector.</p>		
"	9-NOV	<p>Bde Comdr and B.M. accompanied the Divisional Comdr and G1 over the sectors of 16 and 17 Aust Inf Bdes.</p>		
"	10-NOV	<p>Bde Comdr and B.M. carried out a detailed recce in the mountainous area of Bde sector and submitted the amended plan which was accepted by the Div Comdr.</p> <p>H.Q. 2/5 Bn were now located at 19731779 ref map Zebdani 1/50,000 with all Coys in the area.</p>		

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Signature

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EDSAYA	11-NOV	<p>Brigadier gave the B.M. outline plan for Op Instr which he wrote covering the work in hand in our sector in 6 Div area.</p> <p>brigadier called on 2/5 Bn during the day and a conference of unit commanders was held in the evening where new requirements and the method of supervision of work was set out. Lieut Col wrigley together with Capt Weate had been ordered to report from Palestine and were in attendance.</p>		
"	12-NOV	<p>Bde Comdr interviewed Major Hogan from 10 Corps Engineers with reference to work required on tracks necessary in area of 10 Corps and instructed 2/5 and 2/7Bns to comply with his requests and commence work as from to-morrow.</p> <p>Bde Comdr also interviewed major Barrington and instructed him to call upon Bns and make mutual arrangements about mules as required.</p> <p>B.M., B.I.O. and C.O.s 2/5 and 2/6 Bns with special recce party from 2/5 Bn left on recce. After calling at 6 Div they proceeded to Lower Fara where B.M. pointed out on ground suggested new dispositions and new Bn boundaries. Major Starr and party carried on with recce of 2/5 Bn area while B.M. and I.O. with Lt Col Wrigley recced Coy area on Tripod feature. Concave slopes made good fields of fire very difficult to obtain. They also sited platoon on Cave spur feature.</p>		
"	13-NOV	<p>B.M. and B.I.O. toiled to the top of " Kosciusko " feature where they met Capt Picken and Major Webster 2/8 Bn in charge of working parties. They inspected progress of work on left Bn and recced new positions on the " Macedon " feature for two Coys of the 2/6 Bn.</p>		

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Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*

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EDSAYA	13-NOV	<p>Bde Comdr visited 2/7 Bn and attended a demonstration of troops crossing wire.</p> <p>2/6 Bn under command 9 Aust Div moved to new location in Glasfurd lines, Palestine.</p> <p>B.G.S. 10 Corps called upon Bde Comdr during the day.</p>		
"	14-NOV	<p>Lt Col Wrigley, B.M., and B.I.O. inspected the new positions selected by 2/5 Bn and with Int Sec recce party returned to Bde H.Q. at 1630 hrs.</p>		
"	15-NOV	<p>Bde Comdr and B.M. left to inspect 2/5 Bn dispositions.</p> <p>Lieut Schofield Bde I.O. gave a lecture to "J" Section, 6 Div Sigs on the organisation of the German Army. "J" Section were leaving 17 Bde to rejoin 16 Bde at Qatana</p> <p>Advance party "K" Section 6 Div Sigs arrived. Capt Tribolet from "J" Section to take charge of "K" Section with Lieut Logan as 2 i/c.</p>		
"	16-NOV	<p>ALL Quiet on the !!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>		
"	17-NOV	<p>Brigadier with Lt Col Guinne in the morning checked left Bn sector, right Bde fortress, regarding position.</p> <p>In the afternoon B.M. and I.O. with Lt Col Guinne checked same area forward position.</p> <p>17 Bde Op Instn No.14 issued to Lt Col Wrigley covering further recce to be made with order of priority.</p>		

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Signature

V. J. Schofield
Lt.

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EDSAYA	18-NOV	<p>Bde Comdr reced centre Bn area, Mezze Fortress with Major Brock 2 i/c 2/7 Bn.</p> <p>Lt Col Wrigley C.O. 2/6 Bn and Lieut Hay I.O. called on their way to Baalbek. Lt Col Wrigley was supervising all work on 17 Bde sector in the 6 Aust Div fortress.</p> <p>visitors to Bde H.Q. during the day included ,Padre Mackie, Capt Webster 6 Div Pay Office, and Lieut McNichol from M.H.And I. Section.</p>		
"	19-NOV	<p>In the morning Bde Comdr completed inspection of centre Bn area right Bde sector and checked dispositions. Some slight variations were made after which a plan for defences was passed.</p> <p>10 Corps H.Q. now opened in the Orient Palace Hotel,Damascus at 0930 hrs.</p> <p>In the evening Lieut Schofield Bde I.O. gave a lecture on P.A.D. and A.G. to representatives from all sections of Bde H.Q. Indications were received that the Germans were preparing to use gas on the Russian front in the near future and it was necessary that all personnel should be thoroughly trained in A/G measures.</p>		
"	20-NOV	<p>Major General Herring,C.B.E.,D.S.O.,M.C.,E.D., G.O.C. 6 Aust Div with Staff inspected 2/5 Bn. The parade commanded by Major Starr was a most excellent one which very much impressed the G.O.C. G.O.C. addressed the troops stating his great pleasure at their bearing on parade. Brigadier Savige and B.M.attended the General.</p> <p>Major Speed one time Adjutant 2/5 Bn and now B.M. 24 Bde spent the night at Bde H.Q.</p>		

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Signature

I. Schofield

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EDSAYA	21-NOV	<p>Major Bishop B.M. checked right Bn sector of right Bde fortress with Major Brock 2/7 Bn. The whole of this fortress was now ready for work to be commenced on its defences.</p> <p>Brigadier Godfrey with two of his Staff visited Bde H.Q. as also did officials from Y.M.C.A. and Red Cross.</p>		
"	22-Nov	<p>A gymkhana and races at Beirut were attended by a large leave party of Bde H.Q. personnel.</p> <p>Col Pulver A.Q., 9 Aust Div, ex B.M.17 Bde and Col Fennel A.D.M.S. 9 Div, C.O. 2/2 Fd Amb who went through the western Desert campaign in close contact with 17 Bde, called at Bde H.Q. during the day.</p>		
"	23-NOV	<p>Another quiet Sunday.</p>		
"	24-NOV	<p>Mr G.Arida, British Vice Consul from Tripoli called at Bde H.Q. and stayed the night.</p>		
"	25-Nov	<p>Lt Col Wrigley C.O., Major Rowan 2 i/c and Lieut Hay I.O. at Bde H.Q. in the morning checking maps etc.</p> <p>Major General Bennett G.O.C. in Malaya called on Brigadier Savige in order to discuss operations in which this Bde had participated in order to draw lessons therefrom. A copy of standing orders which had been compiled as a result of past experience was handed to him.</p> <p>A cloth model exercise conducted by 10 Corps was attended by representatives of Bde and Bns.</p> <p>Lieut Pawson from 2/6 Bn now joined Bde H.Q. Staff as L.O.2 and Lieut H.Brown continued with his duties as A/Staff Captain.</p>		

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W. Schepfield
Lt

Signature.....

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EDSAYA	26-NOV	<p>At 0930 hrs Bde Comdr left Bde H.Q. to go over right Bn area right Bde fortress with Lt Col Guinne. The front was considered to be much too large and the right forward flank of the right Bn too thinly held. Several minor alterations were arranged.</p> <p>Col Evans 2/23 Bn gave an interesting lecture to troops of the 2/5 and 2/7 Bns and Bde H.Q. personnel on the experiences of his men in besieged Tobruk.</p>		
"	27-NOV	<p>Bde Comdr and Lt Col Guinne met B.G.S. C.C.R.E. 10 Corps and looked over a position of the right Bde fortress where a decision on alterations and layout were required. In both cases B.G.S. agreed with the suggestions made.</p> <p>B.M. attended a conference on training at 6 Div H.Q. while Lieut Menzies attended a demonstration of carrier manouvres at 16 Bde course for carriers.</p>		
"	28-NOV	<p>Bde Comdr attended a lecture given by Col Evans at 2/7 Bn on experiences at Tobruk.</p> <p>Capt Fielding, Camouflage Officer from 10 Corps called to discuss with Bde I.O. camouflage problems on new fortifications.</p>		
"	29-NOV	<p>Major General Northcote, G.O.C. Aust Armoured Division with his A.Q. visited Bde H.Q. where he was greeted by Bde Comdr.</p>		
"	30-NOV	<p>In the morning Bde Comdr attended 2/7 Bn church parade.</p> <p>The advance party of 2/6 Bn arrived and moved into their camp area at 17951830 map ref Zebdani 1/50,000.</p>		
"				

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature.....

Official War Diary No 1

Nov. 1941

Op Inotns - Loc Stats
Standing Orders and
Misc Documents

APPENDIX No 1

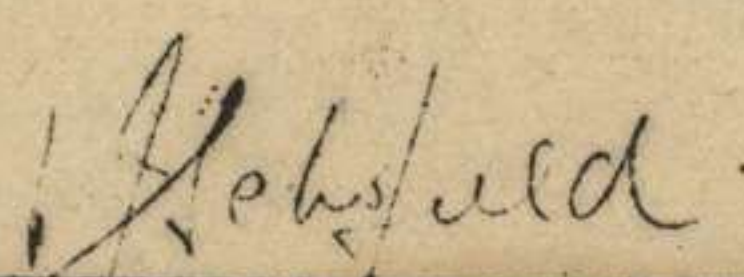
WDI

17 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

SECRET

LOCATION STATEMENT showing Locations as at 1200 hrs 3 Nov 41

UNIT	LOCATION.	
H. Q. 17 AUST INF BDE	KFAR AKKA	16052623
"J" Sec 6 Aust Div Sigs	KFAR AKKA	16052623
46 L. A. D.	KFAR AKKA	16052623
5 Pl. H. Q. Aust Gd Bn	KFAR AKKA	16052623
<hr/>		
H. Q. 2/3 AUST INF BN	BECHMEZZINE	15772648
Sig Office	BECHMEZZINE	15772648
H. Q. Coy	BECHMEZZINE	15762647
A Coy (Less 7 Pl)	CHEKIA CEMENT WORKS	150264
7 Pl A O. P. MARYACOUB		15862728
B O. P. MAR SAMAR		14652386
C O. P. RAS KOUBBA		14362596
D O. P. AMMSHITE		14102458
B Coy (Less Det)	BECHMEZZINE	15672645
Det 18 O.Rs. B Coy) Engineer's Dump	CHEKA	15012637
D Coy	KFAR HAZIR	15472635
C Coy	TRIPOLI-EL MINA 1/10.000	1593027885
6 Sec 14 Pl No 1 Post		1612527925
4 Sec 14 Pl No 2 Post		1606027905
8 Sec 15 Pl No 3 Post		1588527930
7 Sec 15 Pl No 4 Post		1585027965
9 Sec 15 Pl No 5 Post		1583027965
5 Sec 14 Pl No 6 Post		1582527901
2 Carriers No 7 Post		1582027870
2 Carriers 13 Pl Mobile Res		1589027825
H. Q. 2/5 AUST INF BN	LÈS CÈDRÈS	18012559
A Coy		15962616
B Coy		16052615
C Coy		16022618
D Coy		17362555
H. Q. Coy (Less 1 Sec)		18032559
1 Sec Water Point		17852564
<hr/>		
7 AUST DIV PETROL COY.	DAHAR EL AIN	16172722
2/4 AUST FD AMB. (Less A. & B. Coys.)	ITALIAN HOSPITAL	16042777
A. Coy	BETERRAM	15842651
B. Coy	BOUKA	15933992
H. Q. 7 AUST DIV	TRIPOLI	16162774
H. Q. R. A. E. 7 AUST DIV.	ARMENIAN VILLAGE	16172765
H. Q. R. A. A. 7 AUST DIV		15812722
H. Q. 21 AUST INF BDE.	MADJLAYA	16422752
2/16 Aust Inf Bn		17822713
2/27 Aust Inf Bn		17632745
2/14 Aust Inf Bn		17512756
H. Q. 25 AUST INF BDE.	CAMP LEGOULT	16292775
2/31 Aust Inf Bn MERIATA		16922753
2/33 Aust Inf Bn LEGOULT BARRACKS		16312773
2/25 Aust Inf Bn Casiene Bejat Ghanim		16302775
2/6 AUST FD REGT	JDAIDE	16562689
No 7 DENTAL UNIT		15712645


 Lieut.
 I. O. 17 AUST INF Bde.

17 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SECRET. W.D.1

LOCATION STATEMENT showin Locations as at 1200 hrs 20 Nov 41.

Map Ref ZEBDANI 1.50.000 TRIPOLI-HOMS 1.200.000.

UNIT	LOCATION	REMARKS.
H. Q. 17 AUST INF BDE	EDSAYA	19531778
"K" Sec Sigs 6 AUST DIV	EDSAYA	19531778
46 L. A. D.	EDSAYA	19531778
5 Pl H. Q. AUST GUARD BN	EDSAYA	19531778
1 CYPRIOT COY	EDSAYA	19531778 (under Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde)
<u>H. Q. 2/5 AUST INF BN</u>		19761776
A. Coy 2/5 Aust Inf Bn		19761778
B. Coy 2/5 Aust Inf Bn		19801778
C. Coy 2/5 Aust Inf Bn		19761774
D. Coy 2/5 Aust Inf Bn		19771772
H.Q. Coy 2/5 Aust Inf Bn		19821777
<u>H. Q. 2/6 AUST INF BN</u>	PALESTINE	Under Command
A. Coy 2/6 Aust Inf Bn	BAALBEK AREA	6 AUST DIV.
B. Coy 2/6 Aust Inf Bn	PALESTINE	
C. Coy 2/6 Aust Inf Bn	PALESTINE	
D. Coy 2/6 Aust Inf Bn	PALESTINE	
H. Q. Coy 2/6 Aust Inf Bn	PALESTINE	
<u>H. Q. 2/7 AUST INF BN</u>	EDSAYA AREA	19421783 Less Det
A. Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn	EDSAYA	19431778 Less Det
B. Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn	EDSAYA	19431778 Less Det
C. Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn	EDSAYA	19411779
D. Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn	EDSAYA	19441776 Less Det
H. Q. Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn	EDSAYA	19421781
Det 3 O.Rs Bn H. Q.	BAALBEK	194229
Det 1 Offr 1 O.R. B. Coy	BAALBEK	194229
Det 13 O.Rs A. Coy	ZEBDANIE	183198
Det 1 Offr 50 O.Rs D Coy	ZEBDANIE	183198
oo00oo		
H. Q. 6 AUST DIV.	BAALBEK	WAVELL BARRACKS.
Rep R. A. A. 6 AUST DIV	BAALBEK	194229
H. Q. R. A. E. 6 AUST DIV	BAALBEK	GOURAUD BARRACKS
H. Q. 16 AUST INF BDE	QATANA	182167
H. Q. 2/1 AUST INF BN	QATANA AREA	18321679
H. Q. 2/2 AUST INF BN	QATANA AREA	17961689
H. Q. 2/3 AUST INF BN	QATANA AREA	17641706
H. Q. 2/2 AUST PNR BN	QATANA AREA	182167
H. Q. 19 AUST INF BDE	EL AIN	211253
H. Q. 2/4 AUST INF BN	EL AIN	211253
H. Q. 2/8 AUST INF BN	RAS BAALBEK	214257
H. Q. 2/11 AUST INF BN	DJEDIDE	211255
oo00oo		

I. O. Schepfeld Lieut.
I. O. 17 AUST INF BDE.

copy No. 7

H Q
17 Aust Inf Bde
20 Nov 41.

WPI

17 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN NO 14

AMENDMENT

Para 2 - line 2 - for "penetration" read "preparation".

[Signature]
Major
B.M. 17 AUST INF BDE

~~1~~
Distribution.

- Lt-Col H. WRIGLEY MC 1
- 2/5 AUST INF BN 2
- 2/7 AUST INF BN 3
- 6 AUST DIV 4
- WAR DIARY 5,6,7
- FILE 8,9
- SPARE 10,11,12

W.D. /

SECRET
COPY NO. 7
17 Nov 41.

HQ 17 AUST INF BDE.

OPERATION INSTN. NO 14

Ref Map HOMS 1/200,000
FARA TRAVLRSLS 1/25,000

Dear Col. Wrigley,

1. The Bde Comd desires that you carry out further recce-s in the following order of priority -

M.M.G. plan to cover right sector and TRIPOD - troops 1. Coy.
Site guns (A) singly (B) singly and in secs as required.
The plan should allow for the covering of front - flanks - and counter penetration.
2. Arty tasks to cover right sector and right of centre sector - both defensive and counter penetration roles.
3. 3" mortar tasks and tasks for one mountain bty to cover left sector and left flank centre sector.
4. Counter attack plans to re-establish situation in areas. (A) TRIPOD (B) CAVE RIDGE (C) MACEDON.
5. Patrol plans - all sectors.
6. Unless you receive a signal to the contrary the Bde Comd desires to confer with you on progress at LOWER FARA at 0930 hrs on Thurs. 20 Nov. On the same day he wishes to check the dispositions on MACEDON. You may anticipate his approval for the detachment of one Coy, reserve Bn, for a definite counter attack role in rear of the junction of the right and centre sectors.

J. Kishor Major
B.M. 17 AUST INF BDE.

Acknowledge.

Signed at.....hrs.

Distribution

Lt-Col H. Wrigley M.C.	Copy No 1.
2/5 Aust Inf Bn	" " 2
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	" " 3
6 Aust Div	" " 4
War Diary	" " 5,6,7,
File	" " 8,9.
Spare	" " 10,11,12.

WPI

17 AUST INF BDE

STANDING ORDERS 8 NOV 41.

DAILY ROUTINE

REVEILLE	0630 hrs
BREAKFAST	0730 hrs
LUNCH	1200 hrs
DINNER	1700 hrs
TATTOO	2200 hrs
LIGHTS OUT	2215 hrs

CIVILIANS

No civilians are to enter unit lines.

BOUNDS

Villages are not in bounds to troops and all troops leaving the area must have written authority.

1. An N.C.O. or senior private will be appointed in each tent as commander.
2. All tents will be numbered and a roll of occupants supplied to O.R. by section Commanders
3. This is to be amended immediately there is a change of personnel.
4. Tent Commanders will ensure that tents are maintained in inspection order and a personal inspection of tents occupied by his section will be conducted by the C.O. daily.

SECURITY OF ARMS

Arms and amm will be checked each day by tent Commander who will report all correct or otherwise to his section Commander. An immediate report will be made to Bde Orderly Room should any discrepancy be shown.

TRANSPORT

Each vehicle will be allotted a standing and a high standard of track discipline will be maintained within the Bde area.

MOVEMENT OF TRANSPORT

Whilst moving through unit lines tpt will move at the slowest possible speed and not exceed 10 M.P.H.

DRESS

A certain latitude will be permitted when men are performing fatigues, but at all other times they will appear correctly and neatly dressed.

DAILY ROUTINE

R.A.P.

R.A.P. is established in lines and sick parade will leave for 2/7 Bn at 0845 hrs daily.

REVEILLE 0630 hrs
BREAKFAST 0730 hrs
DINNER 1200 hrs
LIGHTS OUT 2215 hrs

CIVILIANS

and neatly dressed. ... enter unit lines.

BOUNDS

Villages are not in bounds to troops and all troops leaving the area must have written authority.

W. Brown Capt.

S/C 17 AUST INF BDE.

1. A senior private will be appointed in each tent as commander.
2. All tents will be numbered and a roll of occupants supplied to C.O. by section commanders.
3. This is to be amended immediately there is a change of personnel.
4. Tent commanders will ensure that tents are maintained in inspection order and a personal inspection of tents occupied by the section will be conducted by the C.O. daily.

SECURITY OF ARMS

Arms and amm will be checked each day by tent commander who will report any defect or alteration to his section commander and neatly dressed. Will be made to the orderly room should any discrepancy be shown.

TRANSPORT

Each vehicle will be allocated a standing and a high standard of track discipline will be maintained within the Bde area.

MOVEMENT OF TRANSPORT

Whilst moving through unit lines that will move at the slowest possible speed and not exceed 10 M.P.H.

DRESS

A certain latitude will be permitted when men are performing fatigues, but at all other times they will appear correctly and neatly dressed.

SECURITY INSTRUCTION NO 2ADSAYA AREA1. BOUNDS

All towns, villages and houses not occupied by troops are out of bounds.

2. SECURITY OF ARMS

It is not anticipated that means of securing locking arms in tents and billets will be provided in the near future. Until such time as these means are available, arms will at no time be left unguarded. C.Os will be responsible for the system of security within their units. A return certifying that arms and ammunition have been checked daily during the previous week will be rendered to Bde by 1200 hrs each Monday. Losses, after a check has been made will be reported by signal immediately.

3. SECURITY OF CAMP SITES

It is the duty, not only of the camp guards, but of every man to prevent unauthorised persons straying within unit lines. Any person authorised to enter lines will be issued with a pass signed by an Officer appointed by the C.O. who will detail the minimum duties necessary to safe-guard unit lines.

4. SECURITY OF INFM.

It must be appreciated that a large number of the natives of this country are anti British. Bearing this in mind, all possible precaution must be taken to protect Government property and to prevent leakage of information.

5. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

Slit trenches will be dug in the vicinity of each tent or billet, sufficient to accomodate all personnel in the tent or billet.

Air and Gas sentries will be mounted by units as necessary and provided with means to give adequate warning to all personnel.

SIGNALS

AIR RAID	intermittent short blasts
All Clear	two long blasts on siren or whistle repeated at 5 sec intervals for two minutes.

6. ACTION ON AIR RAID WARNING

(a) When attacked by hostile aircraft, or when approach of hostile aircraft makes it obvious an attack is imminent, personnel NOT manning A.A. defence will be ordered to proceed to slit trenches.

(b) The signals "Air Raid Yellow" or "Air Raid Red" will be used as warnings only.

7. ACTION TO BE TAKEN AFTER ATTACK

A bomb recce of the area will be carried out and when it is revealed that it is safe for personnel to resume normal duties "ALL CLEAR" will be sounded.

8. GROUND DEFENCE

Ground Defence will be the subject of a conference at a later date.

9. DISPERSION AND CAMOUFLAGE OF VEHICLES

The maximum dispersion consistent with hard standings available will be observed. Camouflage nets, adequately garnished, will be used on all parked vehicles. Nets will be fixed on poles so that vehicles may be driven under them but care must be taken that edges of nets are left ragged and do not have a square outline.

10. CAMOUFLAGE OF TENTS

Tents will be camouflaged to conform with the colour of the surrounding ground.

8 NOV. 41.

[Signature] Major

B.M. 17 AUST INF BDE.

Distribution

- 2/5 Aust Inf Bn
- 2/6 Aust Inf Bn
- 2/7 Aust Inf Bn
- Staff
- Offrs File
- 2 Spare.

SIGNALS

AIR RAID
All Clear

ACTION ON AIR RAID WARNING

(a) When attacked by hostile aircraft, or when approach of hostile aircraft makes it obvious an attack is imminent, personnel NOT manning A.A. defence will be ordered to proceed to slit trenches.

(b) The signals "Air Raid Yellow" or "Air Raid Red" will be used as warnings only.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AFTER ATTACK

A bomb trace of the area will be carried out and when it is revealed that it is safe for personnel to resume normal duties "ALL CLEAR" will be sounded.

WDI

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
17 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN NO 13

SECRET
COPY NO 19
11 NOV 41

Ref Map HOMS 1/200,000

NOTE : The map is most inaccurate and features will be pointed out on the ground. It will be necessary to make a traverse of all areas on a scale of 1/25,000.

1. 6 Aust Div is preparing a defensive position astride the road BAALBEK - HOMS; the general line of FDLs being WADI FAKIE 216254, DJEIDE 212256, WADI and RIVER JUNC 209260, WADI FARA 204259, HILL 202262, HILL 199260.

2. Local names allotted are :-

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| TRIG 1645, 214253 | - | BUFFALO |
| Pt 1120, 213255 | - | KETTLE |
| Pt 215256 | - | PAN |
| Pt 216257 | - | POT |
| Pt 216258 | - | OLD POST |
| LOIN SPUR 205260 | - | THE TRIPOD |
| RIDGE 203261 | - | CAVE RIDGE |
| RIDGE 202260 | - | FARA RIDGE |
| HILL 202262 | - | MACEDON |
| HILL 199260 | - | KOSCIUSKO |
| HILL 203258 | - | HOTHAM. |

There are three villages in WADI FARA and from EAST to WEST they are called LOWER, MIDDLE and UPPER FARA. Two small villages immediately NORTH and SOUTH of the point where WADI FARA enters the hills are known as NORTH and SOUTH FARA.

Two houses between LOWER and MIDDLE FARA are called KING's FOLLY.

3. INTER-BDE BOUNDARIES ARE :

- DJEIDE - incl RIGHT BDE.
- RIVER ORONTES - incl CENTRE BDE.

4. 17 Aust Inf Bde is responsible for recco of left Bde area which is to be prepared by 19 AUST INF BDE who have allotted the task to 2/8 Aust Inf Bn.

5. After consultation by Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde and GOC 6 Aust Div on 9 NOV 41, the left Bde sector will be recced on the basis of a four Bn front, the left Bn position to be prepared but only occupied in skeleton until the threat of an attack on that front is imminent.

6. INTER-BN BOUNDARIE :

- Right Bn - excl RIVER ORONTES - excl THE TRIPOD.
- Centre Bn - incl THE TRIPOD - incl MACEDON.
- Left Bn - excl MACEDON - incl KOSCIUSKO.

Reserve Bn area 207258.

7. RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECCE :

Right Bn - 2/5 Aust Inf Bn
Centre Bn - 2/6 Aust Inf Bn
Left Bn - 2/6 and 2/7 Aust Inf Bns in conjunction
Reserve Bn - 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.

8. The Right and Centre Bn areas will be recce on the basis of a five Coy Bn; the fifth Coy being made up from personnel of HQ Coy not likely to be engaged on other duties while the Bde is fighting in defence. B.M. 17 Aust Inf Bde will indicate the new dispositions at a conference at LOWER FARA at 1100 hrs on Wednesday 12 NOV 41.

9. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn will send a strong recce party and 2/6 Aust Inf Bn a small party to the area on Wednesday 12 NOV prepared to bivouac, complete recce and return to DAMASCUS area on the afternoon of Friday 14 NOV 41.

B.M. 17 Aust Inf Bde will accompany the parties, composition of which is the subject of a separate instruction.

10. When recces are complete, a senior officer from each unit will continue to live with 2/8 Aust Inf Bn to site posts and assist officers of that unit.

Lt-Col H WRIGLEY MC 2/6 Aust Inf Bn will remain in the area as the representative of Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde. He will co-ordinate and direct the work of unit representatives and act as Liaison Officer with 6 Aust Div and 19 Aust Inf Bde.

11. (A) In the Left and Centre Bn areas consideration is to be given to the holding of the ground not overlooked by the enemy. In many cases a field of fire will only be obtained by siting Sec Posts well down the slopes of hills and similarly the covering of WADI Beds is impossible from the majority of high points. When, for tactical reasons, secs or pls are sited in positions overlooked by the enemy, alternative positions on higher ground must be sited and the reserve positions so sited as to give the maximum covering fire.

(B) In the Right Bn area the dead ground in front of the tank ditch must be covered even to the extent of siting strong posts in front of the ditch. The wire in the ditch must be covered by automatic fire which anticipates the siting of a number of fwd sec posts below the banks. Ground other than dead ground in front of the ditch can be covered by the fire of reserve secs.

(C) The Reserve Coy of the Right Bn and all Coys of the Reserve Bn must be sited in positions that can most easily be made tank-proof, consistent with being able to prevent penetration, not only on the Bde front but across the river from the Eastern side of the apex of the tank ditch.

12. PRIORITY OF WORK WILL BE :

- (a) Protective wiring of sec and pl areas.
- (b) Digging or erection of sec posts.
- (c) Wiring of Coy areas.
- (d) Tactical Wiring.

- (e) Linking up of Sec Posts by communication trenches where possible.
- (f) Development of tracks.
- (g) Digging of supply dugouts in sec, pl and Coy areas.
- (h) Completion of Coy defence positions and completion of camouflage.
- (j) Laying of mine fields.

ENGINEER TASKS :

- (k) Erection of concrete works.
- (l) Development of water catchment areas.

13. THE PRIORITY ALLOTTED TO AREAS IS :

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|---|
| (1) | Fwd Pls - fwd Coys MACEDON | A |
| (2) | " " - " " " | B |
| (3) | Reserve Pls - fwd Coys MACEDON | A |
| (4) | " " - " " " | B |
| (5) | Fwd Coys " " | C |
| (6) | General Area " " | D |

LEFT BN :

- (7) Work in same order of priority as for MACEDON on KOSCIUSKO.

NOTE : A great deal of this work is already completed.

- (8) Priorities A, B, C, D Reserve Coy Centre Bn.
- (9) " " " " " " " Left Bn.
- (10) " " " " " " in same order as for MACEDON on CAVE RIDGE position.
- (11) Priority E, F, G, H in order, MACEDON, CAVE HILL, KOSCIUSKO.
- (12) Priorities in the order named for MACEDON on right Bn area.
- (13) Priorities in the order named for MACEDON on Reserve Bn area.

NOTE : The concreting of posts in Right Bn area will be carried out by Engineers and will be commenced as soon as C.R.E. 6 Aust Div has labour available for this area. The preparation of water catchment areas will similarly be subject to the labour available. Priority J will be subject to direction from 6 Aust Div.

14. 12,000 A/T mines and sufficient wire for 130,000 yds of double apron fence have been applied for to cover the left Bde sector.

15. Officers remaining to site and direct works will live with 2/8 Aust Inf Bn but officers visiting, or parties sent in order to become familiar with the area, must make application through 17 Aust Inf Bde for accommodation at Recce Camp.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

SIGNED AT 1930 Hrs.

ISSUED THROUGH SIGS.

J. B. Bishop Major
 B/M 17 AUST INF BDE

DISTRIBUTION :

2/5 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No 1
2/6 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No 2
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No 3
Comd	Copy No 4
B.M.	Copy No 5
S.C.	Copy No 6
I.O.	Copy No 7
6 Aust Div	Copy No 8
16 Aust Inf Bde	Copy No 9
19 Aust Inf Bde	Copy No 10
2/8 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No 11
War Diary	Copy No 12, 13
File	Copy No 14, 15
Spare	Copy No 16, 17, 18.

W.D. 1
17 AUST INF BDE HQ

MOVEMENT ORDER

Ref. Map

ZEB T 1/50,000

1. INFORMATION

17 AUST INF BDE H.Q. will move to 19521781 EL HAME area on 7 Nov 41.

2. METHOD

S.T. 0730 hrs

S.P. AMIOUNE

Assembly Area road in front of Orderly Room

ROUTE AMIOUNE, CHEKKA, BEYROUTH, EL HAME

SPEED and DENSITY 20 M.I.H. 15 V.T.M.

ORDER of MARCH as in App. 1 Part 2 Bde HQ Standing Orders.

HALTS 5 minutes in every clock hour. Halt for lunch 1200 hrs to 1300 hrs.

A.A. PROT. vehicles will not stop if attacked attacking planes will be engaged by all available weapons.

RES M.T. 10 extra vehs will report 1500 hrs 6 Nov to be allotted by B.T.O.

3. ADMIN

RATIONS Unconsumed portion of days rations plus 1 days dry rations carried on the man.

P.O.L. Sufficient for 160 miles carried in vehs.

AMN as on issue at present.

MEDICAL On arrival Sick Parade will be to R.A.P. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.

STORES All stores except accomodation tents will be taken.

V. J. Schofield ^{by} _{for} Capt
S/C 17 AUST INF BDE

Distribution

All Officers.

B.S.M.

C.Q.M.S.

17 Aust Inf Bde

21 AUST INF BDE

SECRET

3/79

4 Nov 41

LOCATION STATEMENT

As at 2359 hrs 3 Nov 41

Ref Maps: TRIPOLI 1:50000
SIR ED DANIE 1:50000

- 1. HQ 21 Aust Inf Bde)
K Sec Sigs)
59 LAD) 16422732
9 Pl HQ Gd Bn)
- 2. HQ 2/14 Aust Inf Bn 17512756
HQ Coy 17512758
A Coy 17702770
B Coy 17482757
C Coy 17562769
D Coy 17682784
B Ech 17482758

DETACHED PLS

Observation Pl 16722857
10 Pl (B Coy) 17772798

- 3. HQ 2/16 Aust Inf Bn 17812714
HQ Coy 17812714
A Coy 17882700
B Coy 17812704
C Coy 17832717
D Coy 17872717
B Ech 17832714

- 4. HQ 2/27 Aust Inf Bn 17332776
HQ Coy 16772750
A Coy 17442774
B Coy 17292777
C Coy 17422784
D Coy 17272780
B Ech 16772750

DETACHED PLS

One Pl each coy at 16782750

DISTRIBUTION

- 2/14 Aust Inf Bn
- 2/16 Aust Inf Bn
- 2/27 Aust Inf Bn
- 7 Aust Div (2)
- 17 Aust Inf Bde
- 25 Aust Inf Bde
- SC
- LOs (3)
- War Diary (2)
- File

F J Nicholls
Capt
for Lieut
IO 21 Aust Inf Bde

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

H Q 17 AUST. INF BDE (Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
*			
BRIGADIER	1		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	1		
Captains ...	3		
Lieutenants...	3		
2nd Lieutenants ...	1		
Quartermasters ...	1		
District Officers ...	1		
TOTALS ...	8		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
BRIG.		SAVAGE. S.G.	6 DIV.	YES.	
MAJOR		BISHOP J.A.	" "	YES.	
LIEUT.	T/CAPT.	CHAPMAN. A.P.	" "	NO.	JUNIOR STAFF School. SANDHAND.
CAPT.		CRAWFORD. G.A.	" "	YES.	
CAPT.		WRAY. F.D.H.	" "	YES.	
LIEUT.		SEDFIELD. V.J.	" "	YES.	
LIEUT.		MENZIES. J.M.	" "	YES.	
LIEUT.		BROWN. H.V.	" "	YES.	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
CAPT.		LAWRENCE. K.W.	60th AASC		SUPPLY OFFICER.
CAPT.		SKINNER. F.W.	46 LAD.		O.M.E.
CAPT.		TRIBOLET. I.N.	Div. SIGS.		SIG. OFFICER.
LIEUT.		MURPHY. D.C.A.	" "		" "
LIEUT.		SIMPSON. R.W.R.	Aust. Co. Bg.		" "

4 B 17 AUST. INF. BDE.
(Unit.)
23 Nov 41.
(Date of Despatch.)

H. Brown Lt
(Signature of Commander.)
6 DIVISION AIF.
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

7 FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde (Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

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

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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. 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.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners ...																				
Clerks																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ...																				
" " (Wheeled)																				
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ...																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ...																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
ARMOURER																				
General duty personnel ...																				
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).																				

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

[Signature]
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 23 Nov 41

6 DIV AIF.
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

8

1212 Amst Inf Bde (Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
*			
BRIGADIER *	1		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	1		
Captains ...	3		
Lieutenants...	4		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...			
TOTALS ...	9		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

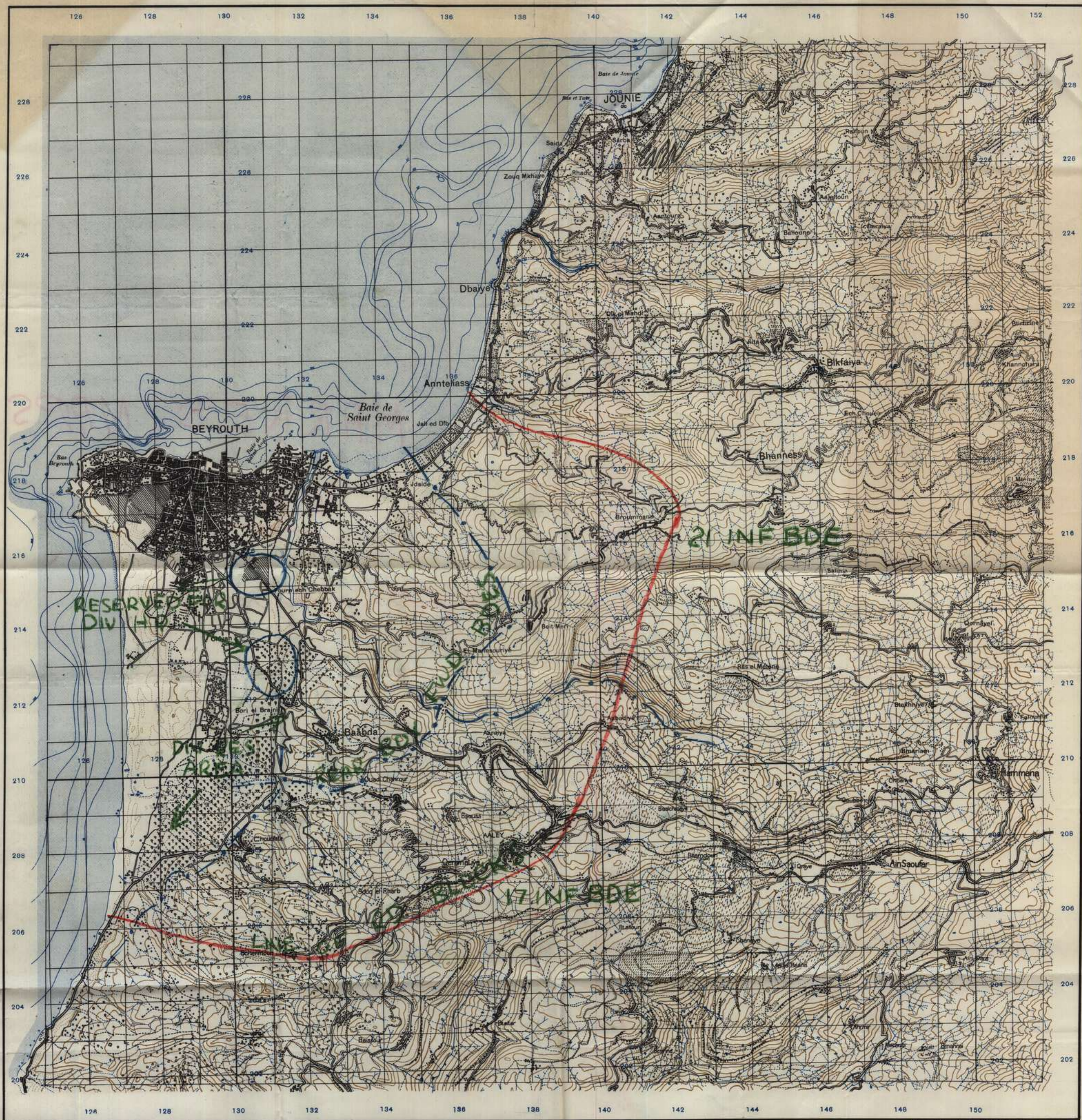
Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
LIEUT.	PAWSON J.H.	6 D.V.	20 Nov 41	LIAISON OFFICER
MR	RUSSELL T.	Y.M.C.A.	1 Nov 41	WELFARE OFFICER

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
MR	BROWN T	YMCA	1 Nov 41	TRANSFERRED TRANSFERRED. To: 19 AMST. INF. BDE

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

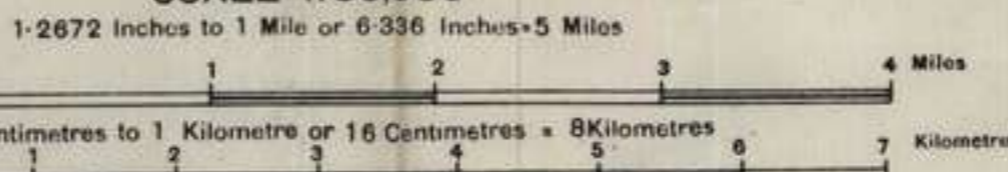
Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).



D. R. 444

SCALE 1:50,000

Drawn and Reproduced by S12 (A. Fd. Sv.) Coy., R.E. June 1941.



VALUES AT SHEET CORNERS—FRENCH (LEVANT) GRID.

Corner	Eastings	Northings	Convergence Grid North from True North is
N.W.	125,295m	229,565m	1° 04' 32" W
N.E.	152,230m	229,100m	0° 54' 35" W
S.W.	124,775m	201,850m	1° 04' 32" W
S.E.	151,790m	201,380m	0° 54' 35" W

Contours 50 M. V. I.

10 M. V. I.

Magnetic Variation 1941 1° 42' E. Annual Change 30"E.

Ground Surveyed in 1925 and revised in 1939.
Drawn and published by the Service Geographique du Levant in 1941.

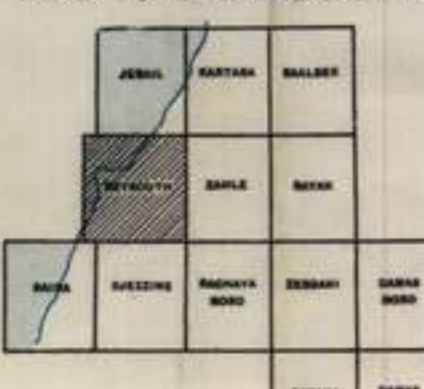
Conventional Signs

- 1st Class Road ...
- 2nd " " ...
- 3rd " " ...
- Motorable Track ...
- Track ...
- Footpath ...
- Difficult path ...

TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET

POINT		Wireless Station
EAST	NORTH	
Take west edge of square in which point lies and read the figures printed opposite this line (on east or west margin) or on the line itself (on the line of the map). Estimate tenths eastward.	Take south edge of square in which point lies and read the figures printed opposite this line (on east or west margin) or on the line itself (on the line of the map). Estimate tenths northward.	
127	207	
REFERENCE 12712074TD	NEAREST 100 METRES	

INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEETS



Conventional Signs

- Water mill, well, spring, reservoir ...
- Edge of Wood, Cultivation, Fence, ...
- Telegraph office, Telephone post office ...
- Isolated Trees, (Deciduous, Coniferous, Palm) ...
- Wireless Telegraph station ...
- Landing ground, Factory ...
- Wood, Scrub, Orchard ...
- Church, chapel, calvary ...
- Mosque, Khoubba, Tomb ...
- Ruins ...
- Gravel, Vineyards, Olive Groves ...

Official War Diary No 1

Nov 1941

News Bulletin

APPENDIX No. 2

1 Nov 41RUSSIA

Heavy fighting on the CRIMEA, MOSCOW and DON fronts.

MOSCOW

The main GERMAN drive^{is} from ORSK. Both sides give conflicting reports as to the successes of their armies.

CRIMEA

GERMANS claim to have broken through in the CRIMEA but is not confirm^d -ed in RUSSIAN circles, though it is admitted that there is heavy pressure but RUSSIAN warships are playing a great part in the battles for this region

DONETS

The drive towards ROSTOV is checked and RUSSIANS are counter attacking. Further north, GERMANS claim to be advancing steadily on from KHARKOV.

The world newspapers pay tribute to the magnificent efforts of the RUSSIANS and the workers who shifted factories piece-meal from the threatened cities to resume production elsewhere.

U.S.A.

The AMERICAN destroyer "Reuben James" has been sunk. Latest news is that 44 of the 120 have been saved. The USA is to take strong action.

Wendell Wilkie is urging immediate repeal of the Neutrality Act. The Naval Department has refused to say whether GERMAN subs have been sunk by USA action while AMERICAN warships were on escort duty, but state that depth charges have been dropped, and not all of them would have been poor shots.

An AMERICAN Military Mission will cover all phases of the present situation in EGYPT. A vast programme is to be undertaken, and hundreds of technicians will study various constructions. Special billets will be necessary as the AMERICAN Mission buildings are not large enough for all the men. This Mission is similar to the Wheeler Mission IRAN and IRAQ.

IRAN & IRAQ

10,000 IRAQI labours are working on communications for the British Army in IRAQ. BRITISH great demand for labour has solved the serious unemployment problem in IRAQ. Roads are being repaired from BASRA to BAGHDAD, and also through IRAN, so that supplies to RUSSIA can be taken more speedily.

BURMA

Gen. WAVELL has spent two days in BURMA.

JAPAN

JAPANESE admit the evacuation of the Nthn Province of CHINA, CHENGCHA, but state the reason is that there is now no reason for keeping troops there, as the CHUNGKING forces had been annihilated and military bases established. This coincides with the CHINESE news that they had begun an offensive in this Province. JAPANESE papers also warned THAILAND not to fall a prey to ANGLO-AMERICAN wishes and not to interfere with JAPAN'S plans for her Prosperity Sphere.

SINGAPORE

Mr Duff Cooper, who was sent to SINGAPORE at the behest of the Govt said his report which had been forwarded to BRITAIN contained nothing to alter the Govt's policy in the Far East. He is to proceed to AUSTRALIA and N.Z.

GERMANY

Radio announces that BRITISH planes were over North and NW of Germany last night, dropped several bombs and caused some casualties.

IRELAND

Fighters were over the occupied territory yesterday attacking numerous objectives. Two are missing. Two enemy bombers were brought down over LONDON last night and a third probably destroyed.

MED

BENGHASI TRIPOLI and BARDIA received much punishment from the RAF last night. Tripoli marshalling yards were hit by particularly heavy bombs-whole buildings being blown to pieces. SUDA BAY was also attacked.

FRANCE

As a gigantic protest Frenchmen all over the world remained silent for 5 minutes yesterday. Even the crews on the French ships in ALEX. harbour had the flags at half mast.

RUSSIA. The situation on all sectors of the front remains unchanged says the Red Star. Some progress has been made by the enemy in the Crimea sector states the latest Berlin communique. No details are given. North of the Capital, Russians counter-attacked successfully, and despite fierce resistance a hold was gained on the outskirts of Kalinin. Latest Russian reports state that only the town is occupied by the enemy. Mojisk sector, Germans are rushing reinforcements in an attempt to break through. At a point 100 miles S.W. of the capital a small detachment of Germans supported by tanks broke through and some ground was gained. Floods are reported in the Denez basin making enemy progress very difficult.

LONDON. Enemy bombers raided here last night. This is the first raid on the city itself for three months. Some bombs were dropped causing little damage. Raiders were also active over S.E. England and bombs were dropped. The latest Air Force communique announces that 8 planes were brought down. The American Eagle squadron shot down the greatest number of enemy aircraft this month over England. One pilot accounted for 6. Continuing their 24 hour attacks., R.A.F. fighters and bombers carried out offensive patrols yesterday over N. France. A number of factories and ammunition dumps were destroyed by Blenheims without loss. Coastal Command aircraft successfully attacked enemy shipping off the coast of Norway. At least 11 ships were hit. Heavy bombers raided docks at Dunkirk and Calais. No respite has been given Naples says an airforce communique, which announced the 5th raid on that city. Details of damage etc are not announced as yet. In the Tobruk area little activity is reported. Patrols on both sides are active, but no gains are reported by either side.

U.S.A. No news has been received of the fate of the crew of the RUBIN JAMES which was sunk by a German submarine yesterday. A new message has been received from the German Government explaining that both the Greer and the Kierney (American destroyers which were attacked some days ago) attacked German U boats which were forced to fire in self defence. The latest attack has caused a storm of protest throughout America. It is expected that the Russian revision of the Neutrality Act will meet with little or no opposition.

TURKEY. Turkey's policy was outlined when the President opened Parliament yesterday. He said Turkey's aim was to pursue a policy of peace, but he added, "No interference by Foreign Powers would be tolerated" He must honour our treaties with friendly powers"

NEWS SUMMARY 3rd Nov 41.

RUSSIA. Germans claim a successful advance toward Sevastapol, the chief city, port and industrial centre in the Crimea. No confirmation of this is given by the latest Russian Communique, but it is admitted that particularly heavy fighting is in progress in the Crimea. In the central sector the position is unchanged. Soviet airforce report large numbers of reinforcements etc moving up for a drive on towards the capital. In the Ukraine, Russian Cossack cavalry were able to clear the west flank of the Denez basin. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy. Red Air Force despite bad weather continue to harass the enemy on all sectors, Troop concentrations and ammo dumps were the main targets. A message of good cheer has been sent to the defenders in the Murmansk sector on the Kola peninsula where, despite German and Finnish claims, no advances have been made. Red Star announces that Russian naval forces destroyed four enemy destroyers and a number of supply ships.

The latest weather report indicates that the enemy motorized units are being slowed down by heavy rain and snow. Air activity on both sides have been has also been considerably reduced in the past few days.

BRITAIN No air activity over this country last night. RAF fighters and bombers were again active over Northern France yesterday. Railway yards were the main targets. 4 enemy merchant ships were sunk by Hudson bombers off the coast of Norway, others are believed to be damaged. Last month over 100 ships were either damaged or sunk in these attacks. The raid on Naples some days ago lasted for 6 hours. An aircraft and a torpedo factory were hit and large fires started. Enemy night fighters were up during the raid. The gallant Italian Airforce failed to hinder the RAF, and all our planes returned safely.

MIDDLE EAST/ RAF, SAF aircraft sunk a number of ships in the Mediterranean. Berna, Sicily and Benghazi were also raided. Tobruk nothing of interest except patrol activity by both sides. Dust storms are making things rather trying.

CAIRO. General AUCHENLECK conferred the M.M. on 3 men who recently escaped from prison camp in Benghazi and made their way across the desert to Sidi Barrani. Two were from Rhodesia the other from Surry, Eng.

USA It was announced in Washington the the U.S. coast guard force is to come under the command of the U.S. navy. Many other changes are expected in the next few days when the President will speak on the revision of the Neutrality Act. Mr. McKenzie King left Washington last night for Ottawa. He said he had discussed many points with the President amongst which was the closer co-operation between the U S A and Canada to stamp out the U boat menace. in the Atlantic.

JAPAN There has been an agreement reached between Japan and Russia over the Mongolia Russian frontier question which has been the scene of bitter fighting before and during this war. Newspapers still continue their aggressive policy towards the U.S.A.

R.A.F. The CATHEDRAL MOLE at Benghazi has been heavily attacked and much damage was caused when S.A.A.F. bombers carried out a particular heavy raid last night.

Diary
WDI

L 17 AUST INF HQS.

NEWS SUMMARY 4 Nov 41.

RUSSIA The latest German communique claims that the Russian Crimea Army has been cut in two. One half is retiring towards Sevastopol the other half to the eastward to Kertch. Both these towns have been heavily bombed the Germans claim. In the central sector a new German attack is imminent. Reinforcements are being rushed up in increasing numbers. Enemy aircraft penetrated the Moscow defences last night and bombs were dropped causing damage and some casualties. At Kalinin the Russians appear to have gained some ground during fierce counter attacks yesterday. The enemy suffered heavy losses both in men and material and mechanized units. It was announced in Helsinki yesterday that Finnish and German troops are within 12 miles of Murmansk. Finnish aircraft raided the city. Railway yards were destroyed. Neither of these claims are confirmed by the Russians. The Black Sea Fleet Air Arm in co-operation with other aircraft inflicted damage on enemy shipping. Troop concentrations were also attacked. Bad weather is making high level bombing very difficult. The latest form of attack is on tanks etc. by a new type of Russian aircraft. Making every use of heavy mists which enables the plane to dive almost on top of a tank and release their bombs. A large number of enemy tanks have been accounted for in this manner. Some idea of the intense cold may be imagined when mechanics have to erect tents over the engine of the plane to prevent freezing of intricate parts when replacements are necessary.

SYRIA The President of Syria has sent a message of thanks to the King on behalf of the Syrian nation on the finalizing of the Syrian independence.

U.S.A. The U.S. Government has sent a note to Finland protesting against the Finnish attack on Russia. U.S.A. states that unless Finland ceases fighting, America will break off diplomatic relations. The note has been received in Helsinki but no discussion on the subject has been allowed. It is expected that a reply will be delivered shortly.

It has been announced in Washington that the building of 50 new escort vessels the cost of which will be £75,000,000 will take place immediately. The vessels which are of the latest type will be delivered to Britain under the Lease and Lend. Two U.S. submarines have also been released by America. One to the British Navy and one to Poland. Both were taken over by British crews which had been sent to America especially for that purpose.

The Senate may vote on the revision of the Neutrality Laws today. This revision is expected to have an easy passage through Congress. Col. Knox announced that 7 officers and 88 O.N.s. are still missing from the torpedoed destroyer "Rubin James". Only 45 of the crew were saved eight of which were badly injured. A note asking for compensation amounting to £750,000 for the sinking of this vessel has been sent to Germany. As yet no reply has been received.

CANADA War effort was briefly outlined yesterday by Mr. McKenzie King. Large quantities of food stuffs, munitions and clothing are being sent to Russia. 91 Air training schools are at present working at top speed training 65,000 young men 80% of which are Canadians, the remainder from Britain Australia and U.S.A. America is also sending medical supplies and food (via the Red Cross) to France.

Sir Keith Murdoch also spoke on the Australian effort. Munitions and clothing were being sent to India. A recent order of 2 million army boots had just been dispatched to that country.

Mr Duff Cooper has arrived in Batavia on route to Australia and New Zealand. It is also learned from Singapore that Gen Sir Archibald Wavel

is expected to visit that country shortly.

Britain No report of enemy activity over this country last night. Coastal Command aircraft increased their bag by sinking 4 ships bringing their total to 24 for the month. Spitfires sank an E Boat and a supply ship in the channel. Northern France was raided and damage done to Radio and railway stations.

Middle East Tobruk patrols active on both sides. Visibility bad on account of dust storms. RAF raids were carried out on Palermo in Sicily. Derna and Benghazi docks and dumps were the main targets. It has been announced that the 6th raid on Naples was carried out under

17 Aust Inf Bde

WD
6 Nov 41
WPI

NEWS SUMMARY.

RUSSIA. German drive on Moscow is increasing in its intensity, but as yet no gains have been made. At the south of the capital latest Russian communique reports as a result of heavy losses there has been a definite slackening in the onslaught. North west of the capital Russians claim some successes after heavy fighting yesterday. Two villages were recaptured from the enemy. At Kalinin no German advances. At one point of this sector enemy tanks pierced the defences but were driven back with heavy losses. The situation in the Crimea is still very grave 40 miles south of Staine. Fierce fighting is in progress in other sectors, the position is rather obscure. Four or five German divisions were driven back in the Leningrad sector. Fighting continues in woods where the enemy Panzer divisions are greatly hampered. A general summing up of the news that the Russians are holding their own and in some sectors taking the initiative with the exception of the Crimea where the situation is grave. Red Air force despite adverse weather continue to harass the enemy, particularly their lines of communication, troop concentrations and supply dumps were successfully bombed and machinegunned. 57 enemy planes were destroyed in air battles.

U.S.A. It is announced in Washington that hope must now be abandoned for the missing men of the RUBIN JAMES. Another wave of protest has swept the States at the sinking of a 5000 ton tanker SALMAS off the coast of Iceland by an enemy (German) U Boat. Speaking to munition workers Pres Roosevelt urged the need for longer hours. We must pour out everything our friends want in short time. Sen Norris who voted against America's entry into the last war said at a meeting yesterday Only alternative is to go to war against this pirate of the seas. Mr. La Guardia has been elected the Mayor of New York for the third time with an overwhelming majority. The Pres. is expected to speak to the U.S.A Delegates on the matters of much importance. It is announced from Vichy France that 14 Britons have been arrested and held until certain French prisoners are released in Syria.

VICHY. A Vichy convoy was intercepted 200 miles from Durban by British destroyers. The crews of three ships tried to scuttle but were frustrated by boarding parties. A note of protest has been sent by Vichy to Britain. German controlled Paris radio claims that the French should open fire on the British Navy as shells are the only thing that Britain understands. It is claimed that the ships were carrying contra brand cargoes. S.African aircraft played a prominent part in the operation.

Canada. Speaking yesterday on Canada's war effort the minister for the navy stated 55 Corvettes 25 minesweepers 15 merchant vessels and 16 trawlers were under construction in Canadian docks. It is also stated here that enemy Submarines are operating off the coast of Newfoundland. Canadian and U.S. navy are co-operating in an effort to stamp out this menace. 7000 ships have left this country since war began carrying 40,000,000 tons of supplies to Britain. Both internal Loans have closed oversubscribed.

Mr. Duff Cooper has arrived in Sydney.

BRITAIN. No report of enemy air activity last night. Admiralty states 1276 men from German submarines German (and Italian) have been made P.O.W. in the last few months. R. A. F. continue their ceaseless attacks bombing of targets in N. France. Gas works supply dumps and riyards were chief targets. Dunkirk, Calais and a number of other ports were also raided causing considerable damage. Many fires were started. In the past 3 months 300 attacks by R.A.F. have been carried out on enemy shipping in the North Sea and channel areas.

Middle east. R.A.F. & S.A.A.F. fighters and bombers carried out attack on Benghazi Derna Tripoli Sicily and Bardia. From these operations all our planes returned.

Singapore. Large numbers of reinforcements including R.A.F. have just arrived from England. Gen. Wavell spoke xxx yesterday with defence chiefs. In an interview with news men he stated that he was very impressed with the Russian troops he had seen in Iran. He also said if the Germans should attack India they would find a nation ready and waiting to deal with the aggressor.

Three awards have been announced for Australians and N.Zers for gallantry in Greece and Crete. L/Cpl Kirk of N.Z. DCM and Dvr McMillan N.Z. Pte Dixon A.I.F. M.M.

8 NOV 41

- MOSCOW** In a parade in the Red Square Moscow yesterday Stalin took the salute from troops marching past. The demonstration was to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the Russian revolution and the beginning of the new life. Marching infantry tank units and all branches of the Army and Air Force took part in this display. In the evening Stalin made a speech over the radio to the people. He told them the Russian Army was holding the Germans on all fronts and beating off all the attacks which were being launched. Russia has a reserve of man power untouched and not affected in any way by the war. He continued by saying that Russia was in a position much better than 23 years ago even though she was engaged in a great war with Germany. They were now in a position in which they had powerful allies and were able to meet the enemy strongly. During his speech the Luftwaffe tried to bomb the capital but no German planes reached the city area. They were strongly attacked by A.A. fire and driven off by night fighters. The record number of 34 were shot down. News of other fronts is very scarce although the Russians are holding on all points in the Moscow struggle, news from the Southern Sector show how serious the position is. The Germans claim to be within artillery range of Sebastopol. The R.A.F. in Russia were sent to the Mojisk front and shot down 15 planes in their first sweep. The Russians insisted on paying them 5000 roubles a plane as that is what the Russian pilots get but the R.A.F. pilots, although they had to accept the money paid it into the R.A.F. fund.
- ENGLAND** R.A.F. bombed Wilhelmshaven and other ports, mines were sown along the enemy coast and a convoy attacked. In France they bombed Le Havre and swept over Occupied France. Enemy planes were over England, bombs were dropped and slight damage done. Mr Churchill with the First Lord, paid a flying visit to the dockyards and ship-building yards. He spoke to the people and encouraged them in their efforts. He said that with the great effort Britain was making aided by America, the empire was past the "darkest and most perilous part of the war and at last they were masters of their Destiny". He added that America was a great ally and that the very tangible aid made England much safer. All Britain should know that Americas aid was great and that we were in "goodly company". The German radio claimed that the British destroyer losses were 112 by German sinkings alone. This was denied by the First Lord who disclosed that 52 had been lost, of these 4 had been lost by collision and accident and 5 by the Italians, so that the Germans sinkings were actually less than half of the number claimed.
- GERMANY** Dr Goebells in a talk to all Germans told them that they must make ready for greater sacrifices as the war had struck Germany hard in many places. In many ways, of course, he added Fate had smiled on Germany in other campaigns. Germans must all understand that that the Army of Germany was fighting a hand to hand fight for the survival of German ideals. Should the Armies be defeated all Germans would be defeated and their ideals be crushed to the dust. They must be ready to sacrifice and also know that whatever they do there will be people in occupied countries in a worse plight.
- SINGAPORE** A new Australian fighter squadron has been formed. They fly the new Brewster Buffaloes and are led by an 24 year old English Spitfire squadron leader.
- JAPAN** Japan is still making something out of the recent sinking. They say that Russia must give satisfactory explanation for the sinking, and also say rather brazenly that "the sooner the better" for Russia. The Japanese Admiralty revealed that mine sweeping had produced 64 Russian floating mines in Japanese waters.
- U.S.A.** America is sending two Military Missions to the Middle East and Egypt. They will go to work in the situation and speed up of aid to Russia and British Forces in M.E.
- LIBYA** The enemy has renewed his air activity at Tobruch also shelling. Polish patrols engaged a large Italian counter patrol but were forced to withdraw.
- ABYSSINIA** Patriot forces contacted the remnants of the Italian forces trapped in Gondar.

U
 War Diary

CAIRO Sunday.

G.H.Q. Communique says during Friday night a few incendiaries were dropped in TOBRUK Harbour without causing damage.

British patrol penetrated into position facing southern sector, resistance was heavy by M.G. fire. Enemy patrol suffered casualties in same sector. Counter patrols were active in this area. Our patrols suffered no casualties.

~~CAIRO R.A.F.~~

CAIRO R.A.F. The R.A.F. bombed Benghazi harbour in daylight Saturday & with other bombers sank enemy Merchantmen in central Mediterranean also M.G. an escorting Destroyer & another Merchantmen.

Early Saturday morning strong formations of British Bombers attacked Brindisi for three & a half hours, hitting an aircraft factory & causing fires. All our planes returned safely from Brindisi Raid, but three are missing from other operations. Our Eastern Sector was heavily engaged by M.G. fire causing us three casualties before it withdrew. Later in same sector strong enemy patrol approached on covering posts from which it was engaged at short range by small arms fire. Enemy counter patrol activities were somewhat increased, nevertheless our patrols during night successfully executed all their tasks without sustaining casualties.

LONDON Nine Axis supply ships were sunk in central Mediterranean the tenth ship set on fire. One Italian destroyer sunk and another damaged by British Naval forces annihilating two convoys. Admiralty announces two convoys of enemy supply ships were annihilated in Central Med. and severe inflicted on their escort. During Saturday afternoon enemy convoy of eight supply ships escorted by destroyers were sighted south of Taranto by Maryland aircraft on reconnaissance. Patrolling forces consisting of cruisers the AURORA and PENELOPE and destroyers LANCE and LIVELY went to intercept. This force under Capt Agnew contacted the enemy at 0100 hrs on Sunday morning and another convoy of two ships joined the large convoy. Operations being covered by two powerful 10,000 ton cruisers of the Trento class. Capt Agnew immediately engaged sinking nine of the ten and the tenth laden tanker was left blazing. Of Italian warships one destroyer was sunk and another seriously damaged. No casualties were suffered by British ships. On return our ships were engaged by enemy torpedo carrying aircraft but the attack was ineffective and Agnew's force reached harbour unscratched. Prime Minister sent Congrats to Admiralty.

MOSCOW Germans were unable in the last few days to advance in Donetz Basin and suffered heavy losses by vigorous Russian counter attacks ~~on the~~ in this sector German General RENS was killed by Russian Tank

Russian counter attacks on MOSCOW front are also reported and though enemy opposing stubborn resistance Russians continue their onslaught. There is no change in the situation on other fronts and Germans yesterday claim the capture of AILTO 30 miles S.W. of SEBASTOPOL in CRIMEA.

LONDON ESSEN and other industrial towns were strongly attacked on Sat night by bomber command. Successful attacks also made on docks at OSTEND and DUNKIRK. Eight British planes missing. Sunday night RAF again attacked N.W. Germany. Enemy bomber was destroyed over Britain last night when small number of German planes dropped bombs in S.W. and N.E.; damage not extensive. German bomber raided Free French frontier post of AOZON on CHAD LIBYAN Frontier of French EQUATORIAL AFRICA. One French N/C/O/ wounded several natives killed. Earlier recon plane machine gunned AOZON killing one native.

DARWIN General Blamey arrived here yesterday. He said we are not going to win war until we are fighting and it is essential to maintain supplies of manpower and eqpt. Blamey also said he was certain TOBRUK was impregnable and would prove a costly mistake to the German if they attacked it. Eqpt now arriving in M.E. in tremendous quantities and air support satisfactory.

MOSCOW MOSCOW radio announces Germans bringing up new reserves obviously an attempted new offensive in the next few days and probably in the direction of the Capital.

C/19

ESP

W.D.I.

NEWS SUMMARY

R/7 Br 10 NOV 41

MOSCOW Pravda, one of the official papers of the Soviet, announced yesterday that there was no substantial changes in the situation. The Russians are launching fierce attacks in the Mojaenk area, but no results because of the powerful German resistance. Fighting continues on all sectors.

At Yalta in The Crimea, the Germans claim to be chasing the Russians along the Southern coast. In this sector the German and Italian losses have been considerable, and many large scale tank battles have taken place. At Leningrad the Russians have repulsed several strong attacks launched by the Germans.

Marshal Voroshilov in a speech said that Hitler's plans were now upset and his attack against mighty Russia had taught him a bloody lesson. He added that Russia was prepared to fight as long as it was necessary, and would bring about the utter destruction of the Germans eventually.

Norwegian and Danish Ministers have appealed to Finland to break off their association with Germany. It is reported that the Finnish Government is now drafting a reply to America in answer to the demand that she cease hostilities against Russia.

R.A.F. Krupp's works at Essen and the ports of Ostend and Dunkirk were the targets for the R.A.F. during the week-end. Bombs were seen to explode in all the target areas and it is considered that considerable damage was done. Heavy raids were directed against Naples again and the Italian Radio reports that heavy damage was done. Under the last remaining stronghold of the Italians was also subjected to a raid. From these and other operations eight of our aircraft are missing.

TORNUGH Our patrols are still continuing to operate successfully, and in spite of large enemy patrols are continuing to bring back much valuable information. Enemy air activity has increased slightly, and in an attack on the Harbour some incendiaries were dropped but no damage was done. Our Air Force carried out some daylight raids on Benghazi and other enemy positions. In the Central Mediterranean our bombers scored direct hits on an enemy ship, and raked the decks of an escorting vessel with machine-gun fire.

AUSTRIA Several men in Vienna have been shot by the firing squads of the Gestapo. Among them were twenty Czechs who, according to Hissler were shot because of their sabotage in Vienna. The sabotage that took place was the burning of several trucks.

WEST AFRICA The Free French report that their post at Aouza was attacked by a German plane that was carrying out a reconnaissance. A few bombs were dropped but fell wide of the area.

GERMANY

For the first time during the Nazi regime, Hitler's anniversary speech from Munich was not broadcasted. Only fragmentary reports are available and they are mostly conflicting.

William Joyce, better known as Lord Haw Haw in a broadcast yesterday stated that if the Russians assert that Germany is on the defensive then their assertion can only be regarded as sheer nonsense. He claimed that Leningrad was hopelessly encircled and the Russians could only look forward to one thing and that was complete defeat.

General Blaxey, who is now on his way to Australia and at present in Singapore, declared that air support was satisfactory now, but it was still necessary that the supplies of men and material be kept up. He expressed his desire to return to the Middle East as soon as possible.

H.Q. 17th Aust. Inf. Bn.
Received <u>11/11/41</u>
Time hrs
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17 Aust Inf Bde

NEWS SUMMARY

11 Nov 41.

CAIRO

Mondays war communique announces that in TOBRUK during night 8/9 Nov. one of our patrols outside the western sector of our defences surprised the enemy detachment which they attacked at bayonet point inflicting severe casualties and taking one prisoner. Our patrol had one officer and two other ranks wounded. In frontier area enemy artillery activity again above normal. For first time for several weeks small concentrations of enemy tanks were observed in support of their armoured patrols. In spite of these increased retaliatory measures by enemy our own patrols again succeeded in covering whole of area they set out to reconnoitre.

Yesterday RAF communique reports series of wide spread attacks on naval and air bases and other military objectives in ITALY, including BRINDISI, NAPLES, PALERMO, CATANIA, SICILY, SYRAEUSE, MESSINA, SAGUSA and BISEANI. Formation of enemy planes approaching MALTA was intercepted and three machines were shot down and others severely damaged. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed in attack on AGLEDIBIA landing ground. From these and other operations three British aircraft are missing.

NAIROBI

East African Command communique announces steady stream of civilians refugees from GONDAR area now coming to our lines. Italian sortie N.W. of GONDAR was repulsed by patriots on 2nd Nov. SAAF aircraft attacked strongly fortified positions north of GONDAR.

ROME

Yesterdays Italian communique admits destruction of two ITALIAN convoys in the Mediterranean as announced by the Admiralty and sinking of ~~one~~ destroyers and damage to a second. Thus Italian communique makes the Royal Navies success bigger. Latter also admits damage to third destroyer which was able to return home.

LONDON

Speaking at the Lord Mayor's Day luncheon yesterday Churchill disclosed that we have now an airforce which is at least equal in size and number (not to speak of quality) to the German airforce. Power of Royal Navy had become such that BRITIAN could now release ships if need be for service in the Indian and Pacific oceans. Warning JAPAN Churchill announced that should USA become involved in war with JAPAN British declaration would follow within the hour. Churchill also said war may soon spread to remaining fourth of the globe and once more assured that Britian would never enter into peace negotiations with Hitler or any other party in Germany representing the Nazi Regime.

MOSCOW

Renewal of activity in Leningrad area was reported yesterday. Germans claim capture of TISHVIN hundred miles S.W. of LENINGRAD. and reported Germans reached outer defences of SEBASTOPOL but have not penetrated them. In southern sector presumably KHARKOV Russians report that they have thrown Germans back as a result of local counter attacks German radio announces Russians delivered heavy counter attacks in SEBASTOPDL area. PRAVDA yesterday reported fierce fighting in DON Basin inflicting severe casualties on Germans who are said to have lost one and a half battalions. Fifty German planes were destroyed in two days on LENINGRAD front.

LONDON

Over 100 aircraft were sent over Germany on Sunday night and objectives attacked included HAMBURG CUZHAVEN EMDEN and DUNKIRK and OSTEND docks.

Admiralty announces loss of British destroyer Cossack of Narvik and Altmark fame.

Stop Press KUIBISTEV Russian forces have now surrounded certain points in VOLOHOLAMSH sector following up earlier attempts to smash Germans and Russian attacks on right of adjacent sector of MOJAISK are meeting with strong German defence.

WDI

17 OCT INF BOL.

12 NOV 41.

C.I.I. - Yesterdays war communique says there was a slight increase in enemy air activity. Enemy, however less active than usual in Frontier area and nothing to report.

R.A.F. yesterday announced Benghazi, Bardia and Derna were attacked including other targets between Derna and Barce.

Other attacks on sub marine base and Brindesi were raided. Four enemy planes approaching Malta were severly damaged. No British planes are missing.

LONDON Admiralty announces that a convoy was intercepted and three Italian destroyers sunk and two submarines damaged by Capt. Agnew's force. Remnant of Italian force was was interceded and successfully attacked by British submarines.

Fourteen ships (enemy supply Ships) have been sunk and two sailing vessels have been sunk. Armed merchantmen and two cruisers and two supply ships damaged in further successful action by British submarines in central Mediterranean, thus in 3 days 30 supply ships and three destroyers sunk and four others put out of action.

NAROB. Communique announced that heavy artillery supporting our troops successfully shelled enemy positions. Out ground patrols continuously harassed enemy trenches and other objectives.

LONDON War office yesterday states 1544 Palestinians are missing in Crete. Of these 7025 are privates of whom 582 unknown whereabouts and 550 thought to be prisoners. 421 are Arabs of whom 326 unidentified and 95 prisoners. All personnel belonging to Pioneer Labour Corps commanded by British Officers who remained with the men.

MOSCOW. Soviet troops repelled two successive tank attacks in Tula region of Moscow front. Meeting strong resistance, Germans regrouped their forces for a new attack. Fierce fighting is in progress in stages around Tula and Soviets firmly holding their ground. In areas of SERPUKHICUL and ALESCIN on Moscow front Germans beaten off and the enemy who tried to drive a wedge in Soviet lines annihilated. Further battles raging in WITZ basin and enemy attacks once more unsuccessful. German claim to have captured Sckho 110 miles south of Leningrad unconfirmed.

LONDON Coastal command aircraft yesterday bombed and sunk enemy supply ships on Dutch Coast and Spitfires, Hurricanes and Bombers attacked targets in occupied France. Four British machines are missing.

There was enemy action over this country last night or during the whole day. 200 arrests were made as hostages for the shooting of the German General some time ago, ^{as assassins} has not been discovered.

Berlin 800 more civilians were shot in Prague yesterday afternoon on charges of sabotage, states German news.

17 MUST INF BDE13 Nov 41 NEWS SUMMARY.

CAIRO. In Tobruk on Tuesday, enemy air activity was about normal, where as artillery was active against our eastern and southern sectors. During the night 9/10 although our patrols operated on a wide front covering areas in which enemy patrols were recently active, no contact was made. In frontier area nothing to report. Widespread air attacks carried out by R. A. F. on targets in Libia including Benghazi. Naples and Brindise were also raided while naval aircraft attacked Catania airdrome in Sicily. No British machines lost.

CANBERRA. Army Minister Forbes and Major General Bennett, Australian Commander in Malay will visit middle east after General Blamey's return from Australia. General Blamey yesterday told Royal Military College Cadets at Duntroon that night training had enabled Australians to make famous the stand at Tobruk and had caused the terrific Italian losses. Germans say that their tanks were manned by men who could not be trusted to stay at their post at night.

MOSCOW. Moscow radio this morning announced that Soviets had successive counter attacked in northern sector of Moscow front and recaptured two villages. Soviets consolidated their positions in Meyac and Volokopamsh sectors where there was an artillery action. Attempts to cross the river Tana were expelled. Red Air Force closely supporting Red Army are causing enormous losses of enemy tanks. Position on rest of front unchanged, and very little news from sectors where Germans still claim to be advancing.

LONDON. Mr. Churchill announced that shipping losses in four months ending June totalled two million tons while the following four months ending Oct only three quarters of a million tons were lost. The Prime Minister also said the food situation was improving owing to the people's efforts.

Vichy. Huntzigir was killed when a plane he was travelling in crashed. All other passengers also killed.

LONDON. What is said to be worlds fastest plane was tested yesterday. An American pilot stepped into a British plane at dawn and took luncheon in Newfoundland.

CAIRO. Gondar enemy last stand in Abssynia has been completed with the capture of Girda and Gondar-Gory Road.

London Two Ministers and Transport Minister resigned and new ministers have been appointed.

173de

RUSSIA:

In a speech given on Tuesday Mr. Churchill said that although our losses in shipping had been heavy we would be able to carry on until American ship building comes to our aid and that time will not be long. On the other hand enemy losses have now grown to one million tons in the past few months. The Prime Minister also revealed that Hess had informed him that Hitler had relied more on economic blockade to defeat England than by invasion but these hopes of starving out England have been dashed and therefore we must be prepared for a possible attack in the Spring. Talking of home food production he, the Prime Minister, said that although we were in a good position to face the coming winter we must still produce more.

CANADA:

The Royal Canadian Navy had now been built up to a strength of 400 ships and is carrying on with the R.N. There are now 110,000 Canadian troops in Britain ready for action.

FINLAND:

The country will continue to fight until all danger to Finland is past. There is apparently a reluctance to give a straightforward reply to American demands that Finland cease to participate in the German attack on Russia. Finnish troops are now thought to be East of the Leningrad-Muransk railway.

RUSSIA:

Fighting on all fronts is reported in Russian communiques. The fighting at Tula is still very fierce and the position there is serious. Near Orel the Russian Air Force attacked a ten mile long enemy convoy and caused very considerable damage and casualties. The German progress on the Ukraine continues to be very slow. English railways are sending large quantities of rolling stock to Russia to assist transport problems.

M.E.:

At Tobruk artillery on both sides was more active. Our frontier patrols covered much ground but did not contact the enemy. The S.A.A.F. has, since commencing activities in the western Desert, accounted for some 2000 enemy aircraft. In the Naval encounter a few days ago it is now revealed that two enemy cruisers were sunk without their firing a shot. Apparently the convoy was attempting to cross to Benghazi. The engagement was fought in the dull light of the waning moon and no survivors were picked up.

LONDON:

Enemy aircraft attacked one of our convoys in the Channel yesterday but were driven off without loss to us and one enemy plane was shot down. There were no enemy raiders over Britain last night.

JAPAN:

The Japanese Cabinet will meet on Saturday to discuss the present critical situation.

AUSTRALIA:

Mr. Duff Cooper, speaking in Sydney, said that our successes in the Mediterranean had released ships of the R.N. for duties in the Pacific. The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said that he intended to keep in close touch with General Blamey and to give particular attention to the A.I.F. in Malaya in view of the disturbed position in the Pacific.

END

H.Q. 17th Aust. Inf. Bdo.	
Received	13/11/41
Time hrs
No

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde 14 Nov 41.

NEWS SUMMARY

RUSSIA

Since the Germans penetrated the Russian Defences on the PELEKOP Isthmus, they have lost tens of thousands of men. In the fight for TULA and KERCH many German divisions were decimated. The Germans threw in nine divisions of infantry, two mechanised, divisions, and two cavalry brigades, in an effort to reach KERCH, SEBASTOPOL and the Black Sea coast across the YAILA DAGH. The divisions used against SEBASTOPOL were checked many miles from the fortress harbour.

The offensive against MOSCOW has ^{been} debated and remains unchanged. The Germans are attacking hard at the defences of TULA in order to find a weak spot but have been resisted successfully by the RUSSIANS. The German Command has apparently decided to swing a blow through TULA and has given the order that it must be taken at all costs. The RUSSIANS have captured five villages in this area, but correspondents state that the position is not good in the same area. The Germans have lost so many tanks in this sector and around ORLL that they have taken to uniting the tattered remnants of armoured divisions to make one armoured regiment. This was done with the Third and Fourth divisions.

As a result of snow and sleet and months of campaigning, influenza is much in evidence among the Germans, and cases of paratyphoid have appeared.

TOBRUK

Enemy artillery was again normal yesterday against the southern sector but the shelling of the western sector was rather heavy. Several patrols by the enemy last night, covered by tanks, were dispersed and driven off. Air activity was practically nil.

CAIRO

RAF successfully attacked store dumps and transport workshops at DERNA during the night 12/13. Fires and explosions resulted. BERKA and GAZALA were both heavily bombed. Considerable damage was done at MELLAHA aerodrome with direct hits on hangars and aircraft on the ground.

Italy was again raided heavily and damage done to several ^{of} dromes. From all these operations four British planes are missing.

MORIO

The revision of the Neutrality Act was passed by 212 votes to 194. This means that S. American and American merchant ships will all be armed and therefore will travel all over the world.

It was admitted today by the War Department that selected and National Guard enlisted men are being asked whether they would be willing to serve overseas. Most of the men questioned are of the Armoured Corps.

JAPAN

Chiang Ki Shek reported to have asked Britain and America for help in the event of Japan attacking the BURMA RD supply route. Estimated Japanese troops in French Indo-China are about 150,000. Japan still massing troops on the THAILAND frontier.

The Thailand radio has told the people that each one must be familiar with firearms and to be prepared for war.

LONDON

No reports are available of RAF activity over Germany probably to the persistent bad weather. One enemy plane dropped bombs over S.W. England last night but no damage done. During the morning enemy aircraft dropped a few bombs on the N.E. coast of England—a few casualties and small damage to houses.

100 Allied ships recently crossed the Atlantic without one single loss.

In a raid on CAIRO 64 persons were killed and 95 injured.

WPI

NEWS SUMMARY

CAIRO

Yesterday's war communique announces no hostile air activity in TOBRUK on Thursday. Polish patrol surprised enemy party constructing anti-tank defences. Many casualties were inflicted with bayonet and five Italian other ranks were captured. Four of our patrol were slightly wounded. In other sectors our patrols operated freely without meeting with any enemy parties. In frontier area normal patrol activities were carried out. Naples was again raided successfully on Tuesday night and large fires were started. Dispersed aircraft on BININI aerodrome were attacked by SAAF and barracks and aircraft at BERKA were raided. In ABYSSINIA enemy positions on northeast shore of Lake Tana were bombed. From all these operations two British aircraft are missing.

LONDON

Admiralty announce the loss of the aircraft carrier ARK ROYAL east of GIBRALTAR. She was in tow after having been torpedoed by a U-Boat. Latest reports show that only eighteen men are missing but some of these may be in ships not yet returned to base. There were no officer casualties. Complement was of about sixteen hundred and next of kin will be informed soonest. Ark Royal sank while returning to GIBRALTAR and it was hoped at first, that she might be brought safely to port, but she was suffering from list which got steadily worse and she eventually sank.

CANBERRA

Army Minister Forde announced Australian Imperial Force casualties in LYBIA, GREECE, CRETE, SYRIA, and PALESTINE now total 12,950 including 641 officers. General Blamey said Force is in favour of plan for direct co-operation with army in Australia, similar to that operating in the Middle East.

WASHINGTON

American Government decided to withdraw USA Marines stationed at SHANGHAI TIENSTEIN and PEIPING announced Roosevelt yesterday. Meanwhile special JAPANESE envoy arrived in USA yesterday to discuss Far Eastern problems with Roosevelt and will meet Cordell Hull on Monday.

LONDON

Air Ministry announces British Fighters carried out offensive patrols over Northern France yesterday and shot up gun positions and enemy planes on aerodromes. No British fighters missing. Few bombs were dropped at point in S.W. England last night, but only slight damage and no casualties. Yesterday single enemy plane flew over N.E. coast of Scotland. Slight damage was caused by machine gun fire. Official air raid casualties in United Kingdom during October were 262 killed or believed killed and 331 injured and detained in hospital.

MOSCOW

Liveliest parts of MOSCOW front are TULA and VALKALAMSK sectors Soviet pressure in latter sector increasing and Germans reply by tank raids. In TULA sector Germans were driven back several miles in attempt to reach road from TULA northward. Germans now attempting TULA flanks of city's defenders. N.W. of MOSCOW in KALININ area German offensive against right flank of RUSSIAN troops has been checked. On Wed. Germans launched offensive with about two divisions but RUSSIANS counter attacked and in last 24 hours have ousted invaders from twenty villages. MOSCOW radio announced routing of Mobile division of SS troops in ROSTOV area on southern front. Today's communique announces four enemy transports of 36,000 tons were sunk in Baltic while in Gulf of Finland. German Sub blew up on Russian mine and went to the bottom. Large groups of German planes attempted raid MOSCOW and 31 of them were brought down for loss of five Russian machines.

12 Nov 41

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NEWS BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES

Severest earthquake for eight years shook Los Angeles yesterday causing damage estimated at one million dollars in one suburban community alone. It is revealed that the USA liner George Washington of 23,000 tons has been transferred to Britian. British cruiser Carrdoc and corvette Dainthus are at New York and Charles Town respectively.

From the News Bulletin for The Forces No 66.

LONDON

Admiralty announced the loss of the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown (CV-5) on 7 November. The ship was in the Pacific Ocean and was last seen on 3 November. It was believed to have been sunk by a Japanese submarine. The ship was carrying 33 aircraft and 300 crew members. The loss of the Yorktown was a severe blow to the US Navy's carrier force in the Pacific.

WASHINGTON

The War Relocation Authority announced today that it has received approval from the War Relocation Authority to allow Japanese-Americans to work in the war effort. This is a significant step towards the integration of Japanese-Americans into the war effort and the economy.

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LONDON

The Ministry of Defence announced today that the British Fleet Air Arm has conducted a successful raid on the German coast. The raid resulted in the destruction of several enemy aircraft and the capture of a large amount of supplies. This is a significant victory for the British Fleet Air Arm.

MOSCOW

The Soviet press reported today that the German army has launched a major offensive in the East. The offensive is aimed at capturing the city of Moscow. The Soviet army is fighting bravely to defend the city. The German army has advanced to within 20 miles of Moscow. The Soviet army has suffered heavy losses in the fighting.

NEWS SUMMARY
-----CAIRO

Yesterdays war communique announces in TOBRUK no hostile air activity or shelling occurred on Thursday night. Friday morning however enemy directed heavy mortar fire against Eastern Sector which was later divebombed. No casualties or damage sustained in either case. British patrols again failed to contact the enemy. In frontier area our patrols attracted some enemy shelling and a few hostile armoured fighting vehicles observed. Recce concluded without loss.

RAF continued bombing LYBIAN bases on night 13/14, objectives including BENGHASI DERNA and BARDIA. On Friday night SAAF effectively bombed BARCE aerodrome. Junker over Western Desert was shot down by our fighters while another enemy plane was damaged the following day. We lost no machines.

NAIROBI

Yesterdays communique reports successful fighting patrol recce of enemy positions on top of PERROBER and KULKABER escarpment. Enemy evacuated JANGUAR and believed evacuating whole of CERCOS and GORFORA areas. In NOLECH area there was artillery activity on both sides. Air activity also announced by SAAF and RAF including recce raids from AZOZO to COLADIBA and raid on KULKABER.

LIVERPOOL

First Lord Alexander revealed that in Capt Agnews action in the Mediterranean resulting in the destruction of two convoys, now known four Italian destroyers sunk and one damaged. It had previously been announced that only three Italian destroyers were sunk and two damaged, one of the latter now established sunk,

LONDON

Admiralty announces there was only one casualty in Ark Royal and next of kin has been informed. The aircraft carrier remained afloat for twelve hours with gaping hole amidships and sank when only 15 miles from Gibraltar. She had a list to starboard of 35 degrees when she sank.

MOSCOW

Fighting especially intense in VOLOKOLAMSK and RARAFOMINSK sectors of MOSCOW front. On left flank of that front fighting increases fiercely and in some sectors the Germans are bringing up fresh troops. Growing air activity has been reported from LENINGRAD area. From the CRIMEA and other fronts there is news of continuing RUSSIAN resistance to German onslaughts which appear to make no progress during the past few days.

OTHER NEWS

A new air service between CAIRO and TEHRAN has been inaugurated. Route is designed as another link between RUSSIA and will speed up communications. Service is run by British Overseas Airways and the machines used are American Lockheeds.

The Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keys has relinquished his post as Director of Operations of the Commandos. For last 15 months he has been directing operations of these shock troops who have been specially selected to carry out raids on enemy occupied territory.

ROME

General Francesco Pricolo Italian Chief of Air Staff and Under-Secretary for Air has been replaced by Air Squadron General Rino. No reason for the change has been given.

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17 Nov 41.

NEWS SUMMARYCAIRO

Tuesday's war communique says Saturday was unusually quiet day in TOBRUK. Our patrols failed to make contact with the enemy, while hostile air activity was conspicuous by its absence. Enemy shelling and trench mortar fire was also on a decreased scale. BENGHASI BERKA BARDIA DERNA were raided, while in SICILY marshalling yards at CATANA and BRINDISI were raided. On Saturday enemy fighters were intercepted over landing ground in Western Desert and in combats one Messerschmidt was destroyed and others damaged. Enemy positions in ABYSSINIA were effectively bombed and machine gunned. Five British aircraft were lost but the pilot of one fighter is safe.

OTTAWA

CANADIAN reinforcements have arrived in HONG KONG and will serve with other British forces stationed there. The Canadian Premier said defence against aggression in any country which still enjoys freedom and it is in accordance with this view that the Government deemed it advisable to associate Canadian troops with Forces now stationed in the Orient.

MOSCOU

Yesterday's German communique claims capture of strongly reinforced fort in attack on SEBASTOPOL. Snow has fallen heavily in the CRIMEA and this will lessen the German pressure. The German drive in northern direction in the region of TEKHRIN south of LENINGRAD has been held but enemy pressure continues. The Germans have cut the LENINGRAD-VOLODGA railway which is of great importance. In the central front the position remains unchanged the Germans having been held in check for the past few days particularly around KALININ and VOLOKOLAMSK. The Germans appear not to be making any headway in the DON Basin.

LONDON

Labour Minister Bevin declared yesterday that compulsion in all directions may have to be carried to far greater length than the British people had ever know it, if we are to win the war. He wanted to get at least one million women working either full or part time in munition works, distributed trades or commercial undertakings. He wanted to release younger mobile women from offices to fill shells and make munitions.

NAIROBI

Mutiny among Italian and colonial infantry outside GONDAR is reported by deserters to British and Ethiopian forces who are tightening the pressure on the last Italian stronghold in ABYSSINIA. The report also states that only after severe fighting was the outbreak suppressed.

CAIRO

Cairo officially announced that a new army has been formed in the Western Desert and is called the Eighth Army. General Sikorski Polish Premier and C-in-C visited TOBRUK where he inspected Polish and other troops.

LONDON

Two more German German bombers were destroyed off the English East Coast yesterday bringing weekend bag to four. Otherwise nothing to report yesterday.

The RAF despite heavy clouds and severe icing conditions attacked EMDEN and other ports in N.W. Germany and docks at BOULOGNE. 4 British aircraft missing.

WASHINGTON

USA Navy Department announces that the US cruiser (name not given) intercepted a merchant ship flying American colours with American flag displayed on either side of hull and deck. Since appearance of ship was suspicious cruiser investigated and found ship flying false

18 Nov 41.

NEWS SUMMARY

CAIRO

Mondays communique reports that at TOBLUK and in the frontier area a heavy dust storm was raging on Sunday. Apparently it hindered all activity.

RAF bombers again raided DERNA and GAZALA landing grounds. Despite bad weather TRIPOLI aerodrome was also attacked. Targets in SICILY also received some attention from heavy bombers. Three British planes are missing from these operations.

WELLINGTON

The N.Z. High Commissioner in London, Mr Jordon cabled the premier that Generals Auchinleck and Cunningham expressed high appreciation of N.Z. troops.

CANBERRA

Canadian authorities requested the Australian Army Minister Mr Forde to furnish them with plans and specifications of the Owen Tommy Gun Canadian Commissioner foresaw Canada's production of this gun on a large scale.

SINGAPORE

Maj-General Gordon Bennett GOC AIF in MALAYA left for the Middle East to confer with officers experienced in modern mechanical warfare, and will remain absent for about three weeks. Before leaving he said the main result of his visit would be to teach Australians in MALAYA to fight on the most modern lines. His primary object was to exchange ideas and to make personnel contact with specialists and he was desirable to learn lessons based on past actions.

WASHINGTON

The Navy Department announced that the Axis ship disguised as a US merchant ship which was seized by the US cruiser was identified as the ODENWALD of 5,000 tons. She left YOKOHAMA two months ago and made her way round Cape Horn and believed to be bound for BORDEAUX. The cargo consisted of over 3,000 tons of raw rubber, peanuts and rice.

BRITIAN

General Gamelin has been taken to hospital suffering from a severe attack of Erysipilas.

MOSCOW

MOSCOW radio says that the German drive to gain the MOSCOW road from KALININ has been stopped and the RUSSIANS are counter attacking everywhere on the MOSCOW sector. The German threat to KERCH and SEBASTOPOL and Northern Caucasus was also admitted yesterday and while there is no confirmation of the German claim to have captured KERCH there is confused fighting along various other fronts of the Eastern Front. LENINGRAD is still NOT completely surrounded and still has communications with the rest of RUSSIA.

BERLIN

A German communique claims that German troops have captured KERCH on the N.E. coast of the CRIMEA.

SINGAPORE

Further reinforcements for various Indian units already in MALAYA arrived on Monday. The voyage from India was uneventful.

LONDON

Although Churchill stated in Parliament there would be no changes in the Government Lord Beaverbrook's health is causing much concern to his friends, owing to acute attacks of asthma from which he long suffered.

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17 Aust Inf BdeNews Summary. 20 Nov 41.

CAIRO. Yesterdays war communique says that in Tobruk ground visability improved due to heavy rain. During night 16/17 Nov our patrols were again active. In frontier area, our patrols were particularly active, crossing the frontier at a number of points and penetrating deeply into enemy territory.

LONDON. War Office announces Sir James Marshall Cornwall G.O.C in Chief British Troops in EGYPT is to succeed General Sir Gordon Finlayson as G.O.C in Chief, Western Command, BRITAIN. General Finlayson retires on Nov 24th having reached the age limit.

WELLINGTON. 200 women will shortly be selected for service in the Middle East with New Zealand forces. The unit will be called "New Zealand Women's War Service Auxillary (Overseas) Hospital Division". Announcing this the Premier, Mr Frazer said it would be composed of voluntary and attached workers with a small number for clerical duties in hospitals.

BERLIN. Officially announced that General Udet, German air ace was killed in a flying accident when testing a new type of plane, and suffered such serious injuries that he died on his way to hospital.

LONDON. Polish General Sikorski, will shortly visit Russia to confer with Soviet authorities, and visit Polish divisions which are being formed there.

Thousands more Canadians have arrived safely in Great Britain, including Field Artillery and Service Corps units from Canadian prairies. With them came hundreds of airmen trained in Canada. General Sir John Dill C in C of Imperial General Staff is relinquishing his appointment on 25 Dec. on attaining the age of 60. He will be succeeded by General Sir Alan Brooke, C in C Home Forces. The King has conferred upon Sir John Dill the rank of Field Marshall.

General Pownall, Vice Chief of Staff has been selected for special appointment and is succeeded by Major General Nye, aged 45. General Paget G.O.C. South Eastern Command, succeeds General Brooke as C in C Home Forces, and Lieut General Montgomery is taking command of Britain's invasion corner succeeding General Paget.

NAIROBI. Communique announces our column, advancing from the SUDAN scored artillery hits on enemy positions on the escarpment west of CHELGA, while ground patrols were active in this sector. GORGORA Garrison on Lake Tana has been called upon to surrender, and in other sectors pressure on enemy positions is being maintained.

LONDON. Crown Prince Paul of GREECE, said that GREECE still resisting and that 15 Italian divisions and over 70,000 Germans were immobilised in GREECE in ineffectual attempts to maintain order.

MOSCOW. To-day's communique says fighting was especially fierce in TALININ and VOLOKOLAMSK sectors of Moscow front. Our troops were beating the enemy attacks and destroying equipment and annihilating manpower of Germans. 13 German planes were destroyed in attempts to raid Moscow on Monday night and yesterday morning. Several reached the city and caused small number of casualties.

LONDON. Many men now employed in building and civil engineering trades, will be called up early next year for defence services or munition work. Reservation age which ranges from 23 to 25 will now be raised to 30.

BRISBANE. Conference of Returned Soldiers League, attended by delegates from all over Australia, decided on campaign for conscription of man power, industries and wealth. Spokesman said league was confident Labour Govt, would eventually adopt conscription.

ROME. Yesterdays Italian communique announces heavy raid on Naples.

W D I

17 AUGUST INF BDE

NEWS SUMMARY. 21 Nov 41.

CAIRO. War communique announced that by Wednesday evening, advanced elements of our forces had captured MEZELI on the escarpment ten miles south east of KHURUK perimeter on the defences to TOBRUK. While moving on to this objective, detachments of our XXXI armoured forces successfully engaged 1 Italian armoured troops in area of KIR EL GOHBI, destroying a number of tanks and taking 150 prisoners. Meanwhile 30 miles west of CAPUZZO, our tank units sighted German tanks in some strength, but these withdrew before they could be brought to battle. While these operations were proceeding, pressure upon enemy holding defended localities between HALFAYA and Sidi OMAR was maintained. Operations continued to develop satisfactory. In close co-operation with land forces our airforce was in action through out Wednesday. Enemy tanks and mechanical transport in forward areas were heavily attacked, and mechanical transport on road south of JEDAHYA was also effectively machinegunned. Enemy aircresses were successfully attacked and aircraft destroyed on the ground, including 5 Ju 88s and 2 B.S. 109 s.

LONDON The following message sent by Mr. Churchill to all ranks of the army and RAF in the Western Desert and Mediterranean Fleet. It has been commanded by the KING to express to all ranks of army RAF and Navy, his Majesty's confidence that they will do their duty with exemplary devotion in supremely important battle which lies before them. For first time British Empire troops will meet Germans with ample equipment in modern weapons of all kinds. The battle itself will effect the whole course of the war. Now is the time to strike hardest blow yet struck for final victory of Home and Freedom. Desert Army may add a page to history which will rank with BLenheim and BATAGLIA. The eyes of all nations are upon you all, all our hearts are with you and may GOD uphold right.

Admiralty announces that German U boat was destroyed by Corvette "Marygold" (Lieut NEWICK) in area in which ARK ROYAL was torpedoed two days before. As this U boat was patrolling the same waters, its practically certain it was concerned in ARK ROYAL's attack. "Marygold" attacked with depth charges which forced the U boat to surface, and was at once engaged by gun fire from Coverette. U Boat crew took to water as their vessel sunk. Thirty four survivors were picked up and are prisoners.

Further successful attacks carried out by British submarines against enemy supplies in Mediterranean. Italian tankers TAMPICO of nearly 5,000 tons was torpedoed and seriously damaged, and later seen to be very deep in the water. Medium sized German supply ships, heavily laden, south bound, with two escorts were torpedoed almost, almost certainly sunk.

It is considered that one of the escorts was also sunk. Schooner carrying petrol was set ablaze by gunfire.

MOSCOW. Fighting on Russian centres on MOSCOW, and ROSTOV sectors. Today's communique announces particularly violent battles in ROSTOV, TULA and VOLOKOLANSK sectors with Russian making local counter attacks. In CRIMEA, Soviets evacuated BERCH in perfect order, succeeding in withdrawing all their troops, equipment and stores. In LENINGRAD area, successful Russian attacks were carried out and Germans obliged to abandon certain positions.

SINGAPORE. Further substantial reinforcements arrived in SINGAPORE yesterday consisting of important additions of Technical Arms, RAF personnel and group of nurses as well as reinforcements to line units.

WASHINGTON. U.S.A. reviewing relations with France upon retirement of General Weygland from post of C.in C North Africa. This is regarded as auspicious development of growing Franco-German collaborations. Resolution for granting U.S. recognition of De GAILLE's National Committee was introduced into the house today.

CANBERRA. Australian army Minister FURZE said today, official news of Libya is distinctly encouraging. We are not without hope that TOBRUK's vergil will be consummated with a devastating victory.

NEWS SUMMARY 22 Nov 41.

CAIRO. Third communique on new offense says battle in CYRINAICA was joined in earnest on Thursday afternoon. Following their rapid advance on the two previous days, our armoured forces, on 20 Nov engaged German tanks in strength in vicinity of SIDI REZEGH. After loosing 70 tanks and 33 armoured cars, German forces withdrew, leaving several hundred prisoners in our hands. Between this area and Sidi OMAR further British armoured formations came into action against yet another concentration of German tanks, which had advanced southwards from BARDIA-GAMBUT area. During first action on 19 Nov, enemy sustained 26 tank casualties as against 20 of our own. Yesterday morning this action was resumed, as a result of which, enemy was finally driven off in a northeasterly direction, loosing a further 34 tanks. In BIREL GOBBI area a situation less clear except for the fact that an Italian Armoured Division originally deployed in this area apparently exerted no influence on the battle now proceeding. This Italian division was attacked and severely handled by British armoured forces on 18 Nov during the initial advance towards SIDI REZEGH. Heavy pressure continues upon the enemy holding the defence between HALFAYA and SIDI OMAR. Meanwhile Imperial forces, supported by further British tank formations are steadily making ground northward in a movement west of the latter locality. In other parts of this huge arena, strong British armoured and mechanised columns made deep penetration numerous directions all threatening enemy's main lines of communication. Throughout Thursday our airforce was active over the whole battle area and fighters kept engaged enemy formations attempting to bomb our armoured forces and interrupted enemy reconnaissance aircraft. Fighters also attacked enemy divebombers at their bases with great success, and bombers carried out repeated attacks on two main enemy armoured concentrations. At least 24 enemy aircraft were destroyed and many severely damaged.

The Germans in Libya are now trying, not so much to withdraw, as to break through with very reduced numbers, and the battle was at its height yesterday afternoon. Our rapid advance to SIDI REZEGH divided the German armoured forces into two, namely:- Larger portion in GAMBUT-CUPEZZO area and smaller one south of TOBRUK. We are now engaged with the main portion of German armoured divisions which will be very fortunate if they get through. Germans are trying to break through westward. Axis tank casualties are three to one. Yesterday morning they lost one half of their tanks.

The R.A.F. supporting our land operations in co-operation with the R.A.A.F. and naval aircraft carried out extensive operations. Attacks were made on DERNA, BARDIA, BENGHAZI and TRIPOLI and further attacks on MESSINA, NAPLES and BRINDISI. British land forces, after a short engagement captured SIDI SEGECH landing ground. Operations were with such speed that 50 German pilots and ground staffs were still on the air field and rounded up before they were fully aware of their plight. Still bewildered they were put under guard until vehicles were available for their disposal. Nineteen aircraft which were shot up by Tomahawks on the previous day were found more or less intact neatly lined up as when they were attacked.

NEWS SUMMARYCAIRO

Mondays War Communique states main battle between British and German forces continued in area about SIDI REZEGH and was in progress without cessation. for over fortyeight hours. Meanwhile N.Zs who captured SIDI REZEGH and CAPUZZO continued their move westward along CAPUZZO road and captured GAMBUT an important enemy supply centre halfway between TOBRUK and BARDIA. In HALFAYA-SIDI OMAR area Indians continued operations in rear of enemy defensiv positions which are now cut off from west. British forces from TOBRUK are consolidating ground they have captured. They report capture among other material of enemy field guns. In connection with tank battle our airforces continued successful bombings and machine gun attacks on enemy armoured force and mechanical transport concentrations in the battle area. In course of Air operations over LIBYA on Sunday RAF destroyed 18 enemy plane both in air and on the ground. British losses were 13 machines. Attacks were made on largest scale and series of raids made on enemy tanks and motor transport and personnel in battle zone. Three Maccho fighters were destroyed over MALTA. Thirteen British planes missing from all operations.

SYDNEY

LYBIAN battle will have tremendous consequences said General Blamey Deputy C-in-C Middle East. He said that it would certainly effect TURKEY and whole position in the Eastern Med. If we are successful it will give us greater freedom for the fleet and in the air and eliminate enemy attempts to attack our supply lines to the and at the SUEZ and fleet base at ALEXANDRIA.

LONDON

Commenting on the LYBIAN campaign spokesman emphasised battle of this kind should not be regarded in alternative moods of optimism and pessimism. All battles go in phases-phase/ one went extremely well and is finished. This consisted in generally armoured formations forward to positions where they are needed and in starting encircling movements against Axis frontier forces. Now we are in phase two, designed to accomplish defeat Axis forces which are encircled and broken into groups. Terrific dogfight proceeding and fighting confused. Phase three will depend on outcome of phase two. Air superiority was maintained throughout. British sources in NEW YORK estimate that brigade of 150 or more American tanks taking part in offensive. From CAPE TOWN comes news that S.A. went into action near SIDI REZEGH and participated in severe hand to hand fighting

MOSCOW

Fighting on MOSCOW sector growing more violent everyday and Germans endeavouring in TULA region south of the capital to outflank TULA from S.E. Despite heavy losses they succeeded in pushing RUSSIAN defences back. On LENINGRAD front RUSSIANS fighting strongly. In VOLOKOLAMSK sector Germans were driven back several miles and still being kept on retreat. Recapture of MALAYA VISHERA confirmed and RUSSIANS reported reached another town where street fighting progressing. Two German regiments totalling 3,000 men were completely smashed in one sector of LENINGRAD.

WASHINGTON

Officially announced that a contingent of USA troops would move into DUTCH GUIANA and protect valuable bauxite mines which supply USA with large supplies of raw aluminium. Arrangement was made by USA and Netherlands Govts. with Brazil giving full support.

OTTAWA

Fifth Canadian Armoured Division arrived safely in Great Britain. The biggest convoy to leave Canada. Also included were USA Air Corps scientists. Two Canadian corvettes recently sank a U-Boat in the Northern Atlantic.

LONDON

Several hundred survivors ~~arrived~~ from Ark Royal arrived safely in ENGLAND.

NEWS SUMMARY 26 Nov 41.CAIRO

Yesterday's War Communique announces intense fighting between British and German armoured forces continued in MIDI BEZECH area. Reinforcements which reached this area were involved in fighting on Monday. South African who were XXXXX first deployed, sustained a heavy attack by Germans, Lorry borne infantry, supported by tanks and heavily outnumbered in the sector they were responsible. They fought with magnificent courage until British armoured forces counter attacked and eventually drove off German tanks with heavy losses. New Zealand forces, supported by British tanks continued their advance towards TOBKUK along the general line from SUPAZRO. Though this battle was heavy, and on both sides ground was given, and regained only after bitter fighting. Tank casualties were heavy on both sides, as it is not yet possible to estimate what actual losses were inflicted or sustained. British forces which sallied from Tobruk consolidated the positions gained, and captured over two thousand prisoners, half of which are Germans. In Frontier area, over a thousand prisoners have already been taken and many more coming in. Meanwhile in Southern sector our mobile forces from JARABUB made considerable progress and troops from the Fifth Indian division captured ANGILA near JALO, two hundred miles southwest of BENGHAZI.

In support of our land operations, R. A. F. carried out extensive raids on enemy targets, including motorised columns, motor transport and airdromes. Two enemy aircraft were shot down. No British machine is missing.

Since the commencement of offensive on the 18th Nov until 23rd Nov British aircraft destroyed 119 enemy planes both in the air and on the ground.

LONDON

The battle in LIBYA still rages but second phase has not been reached is the conclusion here. There is continued hard fighting, and a very confused battle going on in every direction. Main fighting has been between armoured formations and so far it is difficult to estimate the number of prisoners.

British naval patrol in central Mediterranean sank another convoy bound for LIBYA. Admiralty announces this attack and says, our surface patrols on Monday sank a convoy consisting of two supply ships of medium tonnage. Convoy was escorted by destroyers which XXXXXXX succeeded in making good their escape. Our forces sustained no damage or casualties.

WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES military supplies have been going to Free French Forces in north Africa for about three months under informal agreement with BRITAIN. These supplies include tanks, trucks and other items.

NAIROBI

Communique announces that in southern sector, our forward columns continued their advance and captured TABDA RIDGE only seven miles from GO GORD R. Our artillery is shelling enemy positions and AHOACHATASO. In the north patriot forces from OM-GER, after two days fighting captured an enemy post, the whole garrison of a hundred being either killed or captured, and an occupied enemy camp with fifty prisoners. In other sectors operations are proceeding favourably. R.A.A.F. are giving valuable help to army and many attacks carried out on trenches and camp sites.

MOSCOW

Situation around Moscow is still very critical with more than half of Germany's tank divisions operating around the capital, and the Germans make a number of small advances on this front where Nazi pressure is unrelenting. On Southern Front, however, west of KASTOV Soviets passed to offensive and advance continues hourly and more villages and towns are being captured. On S.E. front DONETS, Soviet also advanced cleaning remnants of outered German divisions. KINIX on LENINGRAD front, the Russians broke into S.W. part of TIKVIN important railhead at line on Nazi advance east of LENINGRAD, and dislodged Germans occupying road connecting the town with German rear. Russian estimates show Germans lost nearly 6,000,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners since the beginning of Russian campaign. Russian losses over 2,000,000.

CAIRO.

Yesterday's war communique states, through Monday British and South African troops in SIDI REZEK area held their ground, while New Zealand reinforcements with important British tank formations steadily made progress westward before considerable opposition. Meanwhile TOBRUK forces, backed by tanks, penetrated eastward from the original positions captured during the first two days of sally. In SIDI REZEK area which remains the main battle front, Germans brought up reinforcements and another heavy clash expected yesterday. Meanwhile the divert attention and forces from main operation, enemy staged a raid on substantial scale across the Egyptian frontier south of SIDI OMAR. This column was last located between HALFAYA and SIDI OMAR, and was successfully attacked by aircraft. When about to cross the frontier, this column was engaged by our field guns and tanks, losing about one third of its strength in tanks. British mobile columns with tanks have been organized to deal with this diversion. Considerable British tank reinforcements previously held in reserve have now reached the forward areas where our armored formations were rapidly reorganising to resume the battle about SIDI REZEK. Further south British and South Africans mechanised forces captured JALO oasis, taking 200 Italian prisoners with quantities of stores and operations in this area is developing satisfactory.

Bombers and fighters support to land armoured forces in LIBYA continue and activity over whole battle front reported yesterday. Bombing attacks made on enemy tanks and motor transport. Several enemy machines were destroyed while on the 24th five further Messerschmitts were destroyed in air battles near SIDI OMAR. BENGHAZI was raided on Monday night together with BENINA and BERKA airdromes. Three British aircraft are missing.

LONDON. It is stated here that there is certain amount of reorganisation by British and enemy forces in LIBYA and battle possibly now reaching its fresh climax. The picture remains much the same and the battle is raging furiously with heavy losses on both sides. Germans in SOLLUM area still being contained.

Since beginning of offensive, British Naval forces sank 7 supply ships nor troop transports. One cruiser and one destroyer probably sank, and schooner carrying supplies was set ablaze.

British forces in East Africa advancing from north west have cut the road from GONDAR to DEBRATABOR at ZAGADI. FERROABER garrison was isolated and after heavy fighting was captured five days ago, together with 1600 Italians and 700 natives. Estimated that before the present operations in GONDAR region, enemy numbered about 16,000 but this is now reduced to about 12,000.

BOMBAY. The number of Italian prisoners in INDIA now totals 60,000, including 53 Generals and 2 Admirals.

MOSCOW. Fighting on Russian front fiercest on flanks of Moscow battle zone and though the Russians are holding the offence they gave ground to heavy German pressure in TULA sector, where battle continued for 5 days, and tanks combating cost the Germans 30 tanks and 1,600 dead. In south, Soviet advance on ROSTOV front which reached 60 miles from original positions covered further 6 miles westward on Tuesday. British built tanks which Soviet troops entered into action on central front where Germans were cleared from two villages.

LONDON.

Most of 9th Australian Division was EI was withdrawn from TOBRUK in very secret and successful operation before the present offensive, but some Australians still form part of the garrison which consists chiefly British, Poles, and Czechs.

WASHINGTON. U.S.A. and JAPAN failed to find a formula for peaceful settlement of differences and war or peace in the Far East may hinge on Japan's next move is learned authoritatively.

TOKYO. Jap radio says Japan lost every hope of peaceful outcome of talks between Japan and American settlement.

LONDON. Soviet newspapers says Panzer divisions of General ROMMEL's AFRIKA Corps is operating with other German troops in MOJALSH sector west of MOSCOW. Tanks are decorated with maps printed on their sides.

CAIRO. War communique says, during the night of 25-26th New Zealand forces supported by British tanks recaptured SIDI REZEGH, and occupied BIR EL KAMED in face of heavy opposition. Stiff fighting continued through Wednesday, and it was not until yesterday morning that elements of our relieving forces were able to join hands at EDDUDA with British forces from TOBRUK, which captured that important locality on Wednesday. Meanwhile British armoured ~~XXX~~ and mechanised columns are hunting enemy raiding force, which on Wednesday broke into a number of parties circulating on both sides of the frontier. In various brushes, our columns accounted for 5 tanks and 80 other vehicles while 300 prisoners, mostly Germans were captured. Although this raid has certain nuisance value, it is not succeeding us from our main objective.

Our Airforce again had a successful day, particularly operating against German and Italian concentrations west of SIDI REZEGH. Our bombers and fighters destroyed several tanks, transport vehicles.

2 Messerschmitts were shot down. In aerial combat over SIDI REZEGH, on 25th ten enemy planes were definitely destroyed, while many others were badly damaged. We lost 2 fighters. Petrol tankers, lorries ~~XXX~~ and other transport were effectively attacked by the R.A.F. and BENGHAZI harbour and shipping were raided. In addition to the 2 fighters mentioned five British aircraft are missing.

LONDON. It is learned here that the main battle continues in SIDI REZEGH area and the final decision is not yet reached, and the main objective is the destruction of enemy tanks. A number of enemy tanks taking part in the raid over the Egyptian Frontier is not known, but it is stated that it is most unlikely that more than a few will be able to get back to their main force. During the recent months, not only has TOBRUK garrison been practically entirely relieved, but was reinforced with tanks which will now become available to reinforce those in main battle of SIDI REZEGH area.

Major General Collins said last night he had heard from General AUCHANLECKS headquarters, that our troops are in the best of health, full of fight. They intend to make clear, that given equal arms and equipment that they are better men than the HUNS.

WASHINGTON. Lease and Lend administration is in process of making arrangements for extensive construction of warehouses, docks, railways sidings and aeroplane landing facilities in Red Sea area. Officials said that work was progressing under the direction of Brig. Gen. RUSSELL MAXWELL whose principal job was expediting munitions to British forces in near East.

Enemy supply ship was attacked by RAF and left sinking off Duch coast yesterday. Another supply and 2 flack ships were sunk when fighters and bombers carrying Hurricanes attacked enemy convoy near French Coast. Two enemy fighters were destroyed. Besides these operations, enemy aircraft on the ground at BERKA and shipping at BOULOGNE were also attacked. 3 British fighters are missing.

MOSCOW. Germans are hurling huge forces into action at VOLOKOLAMSK sector. NW of Moscow where the situation became aggravated during the past 24 hours. In the TULA sector, engagements continue with the same intensity, and have enclosed TULA except for the north. This force attempting to strike further north towards Moscow westward to complete encirclement of TULA. In ~~the~~ ROSTOV region, a large enemy formation have been routed in action in the last few days, and their losses amount to 10,000 killed and wounded. Latest reports from SEVASTAPOL indicate that the Red Army and the Black Sea fleet units continue to hold their positions, and enemy lost every endeavour to break through. Later reported enemy made some progress in MOJAIK sector of Moscow front, but was firmly prevented from crossing the river NAVA proper. Soviet submarines sunk one enemy oil tanker and supply vessels with troops and supplies.

Washington. The existence of a secret weapon for detecting ships and aircraft at great distances is disclosed by officials.

W.D

C/109

WDI

NEWS SUMMARY.

30 November 1941

CAIRO. Yesterday's war communique announces continuation of heavy fighting on Friday in area s.e. of TOBRUK, where British and New Zealanders are steadily widening their corridor of contact. To east the British captured an important strong point n. of BIREGHAMED on Friday evening taking several hundred Italians. To west enemy predominantly German offers stiff resistance. S.E. of SIDI REZEGH, German and Italian forces which were scattered and forced to withdraw eastward on previous day by British armoured forces reassembled their remaining tanks on Thursday evening. On Friday these axis forces once more moved to westward, where they were again heavily engaged by our armoured forces. By Friday evening bitter fighting was still continuing without either side having given or taken ground. Up to evening, 26 British who had sallied from TOBRUK had captured 79 field and medium guns together with quantities of light anti-aircraft anti-tank artillery machine guns and small guns.

Continuous attacks on enemy motorised forces encampments stores and land communications were maintained by our fighters and bombers in LIBYA. Targets included BIRNA, CASTEL BENITO landing grounds together with a series of successful sweeps of the battle zone. Naples was also bombed on Thursday night, direct hits being registered on military objectives. Large merchant vessel in central Mediterranean and at least five direct hits registered which resulted in setting ship ablaze. One German plane was destroyed and seven British planes are missing,

MOSCOW. Soviet special announcement claims that the Russians recaptured ROSTOV, which the Germans claimed to have captured a few days ago. The Germans themselves admitted the evacuation of ROSTOV to enable, they said, to deal with Russian civilians illegally fighting in their rear. In this fighting the Russians annihilated the majority of German Divisions which had penetrated in that sector. Germans are now retreating in disorder along the coast TAGANROG. Greatest concentrations are at VOLOKOLAMSK, KIIN and STALINOGORSK north west, north and south of MOSCOW respectively. Germans claim the capture of this VOLOKOLAMSK where bitter fighting is going on. It is stated that the German offensive on Moscow is employing 49 divisions.

LONDON. Heavy losses of German shipping in Arctic waters is announced by admiralty. German convoys carrying troops and supplies to the MURMANSK front were intercepted by the H.M.S. submarines TIGRUS and TRIDENT which sank eight ships and damaged six, four of which are so seriously damaged that their destruction is considered probable.

WASHINGTON. President ROOSEVELT is cutting short his vacation at WARM SPRINGS, and rushing back to Washington today or tomorrow. He took this decision after telephonic conversation with the Secretary of State. Reason is the increased tension in the Far East. In an informal talk the President declared that this time next year that Americans might be fighting to defend their institutions.

CAMBRIDGE. First of seasons two Inter-Varsity Rugby matches were won by Cambridge by nine points penalty goal two tries to six points penalty goal one try.

APPENDIX No. 3

WDI

M O S T S E C R E T

NOT TO BE TAKEN forward
of Battalion Headquarters

COPY NO 8

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PAGE I.

DEFENCE SCHEME

INTRODUCTION :

17 AUST INF BDE is responsible for the defence of Left Sector DJEDEIDE Defences.

Initial recess provided the Outline Plan, which demanded further detailed recess, co-ordination and supervision of work on defences. 19 AUST INF BDE was allotted the task of the preparation of defence works until the arrival in the area of 17 AUST INF BDE.

17 AUST INF BDE OF INSTN No 13 and OF INSTN No 14 addressed to Lt-Col H WRIGLEY MC, provide the basis of requirements from which initial work commenced and continued.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION OF GROUND :

1. 6 AUST DIV is preparing a defensive position astride the road BALBEK - HOMS; the general line of FDLs being WADI FAKIE 216254, DJEDEIDE 212256, WADI and RIVER JUNC 209260, WADI FARA 204259, HILL 202262, HILL 199260.

2. Local Names allotted are :-

TRIG 1645, 214253	-	BUFFALO
Pt 1120, 213255	-	KETTLE
Pt 215256	-	PAN
Pt 216257	-	TOT
Pt 216258	-	OLD POST
LOIN SPUR 205260	-	THE TRIPOD
RIDGE 203261	-	CAVE RIDGE
RIDGE 202260	-	FARA RIDGE
HILL 202262	-	MACEDON
HILL 200261	-	KOSCIUSKO
HILL 199261	-	BUNINYONG
HILL 203258	-	HOTHAM
COLL 201261	-	NEIRL COLL
COLL 202262	-	MACEDON COLL
COLL 200261	-	KOSCIUSKO COLL

There are three villages in WADI FARA and from EAST to WEST they are called LOWER, MIDDLE and UPPER FARA. Two small villages immediately NORTH and SOUTH of the point where WADI FARA enters the hills are known as NORTH and SOUTH FARA.

Two houses between LOWER and MIDDLE FARA are called KING'S FOLLY.

3. The right flank rests in the ANTI-LEBANON RANGE and follows the course of the WADI FAKIE, the sides of which are in many places precipitous, to DJEDEIDE where the line is overlooked from PAN. The line then follows the WADI N.W. over open ground interspersed with small wadis and indentations, gradually falling to the RIVER CRONTES and then takes the course of the WADI FARA slightly SOUTH of WEST over gradually rising ground to the foothills of the LEBANON RANGE. Thus an apex or salient is formed in the line, the WESTERN side of which we are responsible for defending. The open ground is similarly interspersed with small wadis and towards the foothills dead ground is apparent - NORTH of the WADI. The WADIS FAKIE and FARA and the RIVER CRONTES are being prepared as a formidable tank obstacle. The line leaves the WADI at the EASTERN end of TRIPOD and traverses TRIPOD, CAVE RIDGE, MACEDON and then swings slightly on to KOSCIUSKO and BUNINYONG where

the left flank rests. The country in this area is rough and steep but the many wadis including NEIRA, BENBITA and EL KARH, running in from the N.E., give ample opportunity for enemy approach. The country WEST of BUNINYONG is undulating and rolls gradually to the slopes of the RANGE, providing excellent country for cavalry movement.

INTER-BDE BOUNDARIES ARE :

4. DJLDEIDE - incl RIGHT BDE
RIVER CRONTES - incl CENTRE BDE.

5. The Left Bde Sector will be recced on the basis of a four Battalion front, the Left Bn position to be prepared but only occupied in skeleton until the threat of an attack on that front is imminent.

INTER-BN BOUNDARIES :

6. RIGHT BN - excl RIVER CRONTES - excl THE TRIPPOD
CENTRE BN - incl THE TRIPPOD - incl MACDON
LEFT BN - excl MACDON - incl KOSCIUSKO.

Reserve Bn area 207258.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECCE :

7. RIGHT BN - 2/5 AUST INF BN
CENTRE BN - 2/6 AUST INF BN
LEFT BN - 2/6 and 2/7 AUST INF BNS in conjunc-
tion.
RESERVE BN - 2/7 AUST INF BN.

8. The Right and Centre Bn areas will be recced on the basis of a five Coy Bn, the fifth Coy being made up from personnel of HQ Coy not likely to be engaged on other duties while the BDE is fighting in defence.

PART I

POLICY -- OPERATIONAL

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PRINCIPLES :

Section I.

1. PRINCIPLE OF DEFENCE :

In conformity with the nature of the ground, extent of front and depth which can be obtained, and as these considerations permit, Inf Localities will be based on :-

(a) The Bn Sector :

A Fortress providing all round defence, protected by Anti-Tank obstacles, natural or artificial, and strengthened by mine fields and tactical wire.

(b) The Coy Locality :

A Fort within the Fortress protected by Anti-Tank obstacles, mines and tactical wire.

(c) The Pl Locality :

A Redoubt within the Fort covered by protective wire swept by the fire of its defenders. Each Redoubt will cover by fire the spaces between neighbors and the siting of each will aim at depth within the Fort with flanking fire from rear covering Fwd Redoubts.

(d) Sec Localities :

A Bastion within the Redoubt covered by defensive wire entirely swept by the fire of, and giving fire support to, its neighbors.

2. The Fortress or Bn Sector will be prepared for all round defence. It will be located in Anti-Tank country or will be covered by Anti-Tank obstacles, natural or artificial, and/or improved natural obstacles.

3. The obstacle will be protected by wire covered by the fire of the defence and, where applicable, the bed of the obstacle will be

protected by wire and/or covered by fire.

Tactical wire and mines will be superimposed on the defensive wire scheme to turn enemy movement.

4. Coy and Pl localities will be prepared and supplied for all round defence. They will be protected by artificial or prepared obstacles when sited in localities which are not tank proof. Mines in area blocks, and in lanes behind and between each Coy and Pl, to prevent the entry of A.F.VS or their turning to a flank within the defended area, must be provided.

Section 2.

1. SECTOR REQUIREMENTS :

The Bde Sector will be held by 3 Bns fwd and 1 Bn in fixed areas giving depth to the defence (Tracing Sec 12). Supplies for 60 days will be provided.

2. RIGHT SECTOR "A" BN :

The general area is comparatively flat with the fwd line of defence covered by Wadi providing an Anti-Tank obstacle. This obstacle protects the garrison from the front and, itself, must be defended by the garrison.

3. Inf Tasks :

- (a) To cover all dead ground fwd of the obstacle. Where this cannot be done from section localities behind the obstacle, strong posts will be established fwd of the obstacle.
- (b) To protect the bed of the Wadi by:
 - (i) Defensive wire on its NORTH bank and below the lip of the Wadi.
 - (ii) Cover the bed of Wadi by fire.

4. M.M.G. Tasks :

Sweep ground fwd of Wadi by M.M.Gs sighted singly or in sections.

5. The right flank is on lower ground falling away into RIVER FRONTES. The ground rises again towards the right flank of centre

BDE which overlooks our right.

The stream must be converted into an Anti-Tank obstacle protecting the right flank. The area through which it passes at the inter-Bde junct is suitable for flooding.

Wadis and re-entrants intersect the area laterally; and provide both obstacles to the attack from the front, and defiladed positions for the defence. Full advantage of such facilities must be obtained.

6. The right flank appears to be tender if the enemy attacks on the front of Centre Bde. Defences will be so arranged to provide for a front facing EAST and/or refusing our right flank to protect the Bde Sector.

Inf dispositions will provide for depth in defence.
7. C.O. "A" Bn may anticipate 1 Pl M.M.Gs at his disposal. A proportion of guns will be sighted singly, or in sections, on counter penetration and/or right flank protection tasks.
8. The general conception of defence in this sector is by Tps in positions in depth meeting an enemy advance by fire. "A" Bn will provide a Coy in reserve, or in depth, on the right flank. BDE will provide a Coy in reserve, or in depth, behind the junction of "A" and "B" Bns.
9. Full advantage of counter-attack by movement will be taken if and when the opportunity to do so presents itself. C.O. "A" Bn will ensure that reserve Pls and Secs in fwd localities can counter-attack. Reserve Coys must be prepared to counter-attack to restore any and all situations. Particular attention will be paid to the right flank. C.O. can anticipate that BDE will use the left reserve Coy of the Reserve Bn to restore the situation in the vicinity of the TRIPED area or at the junction of "A" and "B" Bns.
10. Plans for counter-attack in every conceivable circumstance will be worked out by C.O. and will be practised by Tps both by day and night.

C.O. will ensure that a vigorous patrolling policy by Coys, and from Bn reserves, is worked out and practised.

11. CENTRE SECTOR "B" BN :

Generally the area is tank proof and difficult for advance by Inf.

Vital ground will be denied the enemy, and the policy of holding the high ground by Tps will be maintained.

Vital ground is the TRIPOD, CAVE RIDGE, MACEDON and FARA RIDGE.

12. Essential ground required to defend vital ground will be held. This includes positions from which the lower reaches of vital ground are swept by fire; and ground from which fire can sweep Wadis and re-entrants leading to Vital ground.

13. Vital ground penetrated by enemy will be regained by Counter-attack. The disposition of Tps to cover vital ground will provide for Counter-attack, i.e.,

(a) THE TRIPOD :

(i) Fwd dispositions :- From reserve Pl.

(ii) Bn Reserve :- From Coy SOUTH of LOWER FARA.

(b) CAVE RIDGE :

(i) Fwd dispositions :- From Reserve Pl.

(ii) Bn Reserve or Rear positions :- From Reserve Coy placed on FARA RIDGE.

(c) MACEDON :

(i) Fwd dispositions :- From reserve Pl.

(ii) From Left Flank Coy :- The whole Coy, or part of Coy as situation determines.

(iii) From Bn Reserve :- Reserve Coy.

(iv) From Left Bn Sector :- Reserve Coy on NEIRA COLL.

(d) Counter-attack by fire :- Dispositions will be so arranged to provide for all units (Secs, Pls and Coys) to deliver Counter-attack by fire on to all areas within reach.

14. C.O. "B" Bn will provide standing patrols covering approaches to Vital ground fwd of defended localities. Standing patrols will provide for scouts, in pairs, working ahead by day and watching for enemy movement.

15. Wadis and approaches will be mined and full use of tactical and defensive wire obtained.

General principles for layout of defence and protection by tactical and protective wire and mines, as set out by "A" Bn, will be applied.

16. In view of the limited number of M.M.Gs available and the nature of the country in this sector, C.O. may anticipate that M.M.Gs. will NOT be available.

A vigorous patrolling policy (as enunciated for "A" Bn) will be worked out and practised.

Carrier Pl, less any requirements for TRIPOD area, will form part of Bde reserve.

Bde will provide a Coy of the Reserve Bn to give depth to the junction of "A" and "B" Bns. This Coy will be sited in depth but will have an alternative position prepared on the SOUTH bank of WADI FARM to which it will move on orders from Bde.

It will be impossible to counter-attack by movement on TRIPOD except by Pls within the Coy holding that area.

17. LEFT SECTOR "C" BN :

The nature of the country renders the sector tank proof and is difficult for operations by Inf. It can be expected that enemy infiltration will follow the Wadis leading to this area.

WADI FARM provides a tender spot should the enemy break through the TRIPOD area of "B" Bn Sector.

18. "D" Bn (Bde Reserve) will provide 1 Pl to cover Wadi FARM against enemy movement

from behind left flank of "C" Bn, or as a result of a break through in TRIPOD area. This Pl will provide a patrol for the WESTERN reaches of WADI FARA. Pl dispositions will provide for alternative positions to meet threats from EAST or WEST.

The nature of the country provides difficulties for defence in depth and counter-attack by movement of Tps.

19. General principles for the layout of defence and protection by wire and mines, will be as for "A" and "B" Bns.

Vital ground is KOSCIUSKO and BUNINYONG.

Essential ground is :-

- (a) Positions from which slopes of vital ground can be swept by fire.
- (b) Positions from which movement along WADIS and RE-ENTRANTS can be denied.

It is essential that alternative positions be dug wherever the enemy can be met by fire, and in order to meet an attack from any quarter. As counter-attack will be delivered chiefly by fire alternative positions to cover every threat are essential.

20. Standing patrols, throwing fwd scouts, will be established :-

- (a) In conjunction with "B" Bn to guard right flank.
- (b) To cover approaches fwd and to the left flank.
- (c) On high ground fwd of position to watch enemy movement from the NORTH.

21. The Bn responsible for this sector, less 1 Coy, will be located in position near Mt HOTHAM.

It will provide a skeleton garrison of 1 Coy to man defences when ordered.

Should an attack be imminent on "B" and "C" sectors, the Bn, less Carrier Pl, will fully man "C" sector. The Carrier Pl will revert to Bde Comd and be part of Bde reserve.

22. Should the main attack be delivered on another part of the DIV front, and there

is little likelihood of an attack on Bde sector, "C" Bn, less Coy in garrison in fwd positions, will be prepared to move anywhere under orders of DIV.

23. NOTE + CENTRE AND LEFT BN SECTOR :

The nature of the country will practically deny cover by Fd Arty on front of left Bn, and a large portion of Centre Bn sector, particularly on its left. It is anticipated that a Pack Bty (4 guns) will be available to superimpose its fire on that of Mortars.

24. RESERVE BN "D" BN :

This Bn will be deployed in a Fortress area as shown on Tracing (Sec 12). The Bn will be deployed :-

- (a) To provide depth in defence behind "A" Bn.
- (b) Provide a new front in conjunction with "A" Bn by meeting an attack through Centre Bde from the EAST.
- (c) Provide a Coy to give depth to TRIPOD area and re-establish the situation in that area should it be necessary.
- (d) Provide a Pl to safeguard WADI FARA (see details under heading "C" Bn, Para 18).
- (e) To counter-attack as required.

NOTE : Bde will work out possible counter-attack roles which will be practised by "D" Bn.

CHAPTER II

FIRE PLAN

Section 3

GENERAL :

1. All weapons will be co-ordinated to provide a curtain of fire and/or a block of fire to smash enemy elements of any and all strengths. Medium and light automatic weapons are machines to be manipulated by the minimum number of operators. The extent of front for which each Bn is responsible fordes this principle but, though it calls for

dispersion of sections, every care will be taken to obtain the maximum control by Pl and Sec Condrs. Weapons must be so distributed to provide maximum killing results and cover, by their fire, to the entire front.

2. The co-ordination of automatic and S.A. fire will be based on the M.M.G. on which their fire will be superimposed to augment the fire plan. This fire will cover the front, block approaches and give depth to the fire plan.

3. The Fd Gun and Mortar will provide defensive and counter preparation fire in areas fwd of limits of M.M.G, L.A. and S.A. fire, and in areas where ground denies the use of such weapons.

The principle will be observed that Mortars will provide such defensive fire within the limit of their range and numbers. The Fd guns are therefore free for the more distant tasks and to fulfil their normal role in providing heavy defensive fire as called for.

4. The Bde Comd, assisted by CRM and C.O., M.G. Bn, will work out his fire plan and submit it to DIV for approval. C.Os will study the fire plan requirements of their own sectors to enable them to discuss general requirements with Bde Comd.

Section 4

DEFENCE AGAINST A.F.Vs :

1. The policy for defence against A.F.Vs requires :-

Action by Inf :

- (a) The placing of Inf in Tank proof localities or in positions protected by a tank obstacle.
- (b) Pillboxes or reinforced concrete shelters against action by A.F.Vs.
- (c) Design of trench to nullify the effect of fire delivered by automatic weapons in the A.F.Vs as they pass over Inf, and thus enable our Inf to meet enemy Inf following behind A.F.Vs.
- (d) Mines in area localities placed in :-

- (i) Minefields.
- (ii) Lateral lines to prevent movement of A.F.Vs to a flank.
- (c) Tactical wire and obstacles to divert tanks into desired avenues of approach.
- (f) Inf Attack :-
 - (i) By development of S.A. fire to force closing of A.F.Vs vents.
 - (ii) Inf attack by bombs used against A.F.Vs.
 - (iii) Offensive action by "Tank Hunting" parties.

2. Action by Arty :

Present DIV policy provides for :-

- (a) Field guns to attack A.F.Vs, in their approach on F.D.Ls, by fire concentrations and by direct fire from gun positions as A.F.Vs are sighted and/or come within range.
- (b) Anti-Tank guns in intermediate positions to meet A.F.Vs as they sweep across Inf.
- (c) Within the gun area, defence in depth.

Section 5

OFFENCE IN DEFENCE AGAINST GROUND FORCES :

- 1. Every conceivable method will be employed to defend by offensive measures. C.Os will study possibilities derived from :-
 - (a) Offensive patrols.
 - (b) Tank-hunting parties.
 - (c) Booby Traps.
 - (d) Raids etc.
- 2. On contact the enemy must be held, then given neither peace nor opportunity to manoeuvre or put into motion offensive measures.

C.Os will practise Tps forthwith in requirements for above action.

Section 6

DEFENCE AGAINST AIRCRAFT :

1. The principles covering action against Aircraft will be based on :-
 - (a) Offensive action by Inf against every aircraft within range by the employment of every available weapon.
 - (b) All built up defences designed to reduce enemy air action to its minimum effects.
 - (c) Dispersion in open country.

Section 7

THE EXTENT OF DEFENCE :

1. The BDE sector will be held. Vital ground will be retained and essential ground secured in each Bn sector. Withdrawal from any ground will NOT be permitted without sanction of BDE. Lost ground will be recaptured immediately by Comd on the spot, be he Bn or Sec Comd.

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.C.O.	INFORMATION	R.I.
1516 ✓	0254	0855 Oct 31.	2/5 bn		0855 31 Oct	Nominee for M.E Staff school Capt A.P. Bennett will report H.Q. 7 Aust Div for interview by G.O.C. at 0930 hrs mon 3 Nov.	
1517 ✓	0255	0945 31 Oct.	7 Div.		0945 31 Oct.	If available please fwd copy of Staff and regimental orders 1 V O 2.	
1518 ✓	I 94	0955 31 Oct.		2/3 bn	0900 31 Oct.	Sitrep and Dawn report () Sitnorm () "C" Coy advises steamer passed well out to sea travelling NW at 0700 hrs	
1519 ✓	0100	Nil 30 Oct		7 Aust Div	1130	Fwding one copy of publication requested	
1520 ✓	I 95	1025 1 Nov		2/3 Bn	0845	Sitrep @ Sitnorm @ Dawn Report @ Nil @ 2/3 C reports air raid warning recd 2040 All clear 2130	
1521 ✓	I 179	1655 1 Nov.	7 Aust Div H.Q.			A Coy 2/3 Bn 15482612 ref map TRIPOLI 1/50,000	
1522 ✓	I 185	1757 31 Oct	6 Aust Div H.Q.			Bde H.Q. area selected 195217780 Buildings at present occupied 1st Cypriot Pack Coy @ Area Selected only suitable area within reasonable distance of bnd.	
1523 ✓	I 96	1027 2 Nov		2/3 Bn	0917	Sitrep reports air alarm 1855 hrs unidentified plane engaged by heavy A/A 70 bombs dropped in area @ All clear 1925 @ Two sailing vessels arrived at 1300 hrs and 1415 hrs @ Departures two sailing vessels 0845 hrs three sailing vessels 1100 hrs two vessels 1300 hrs @ A frost reports light at sea approx 3 miles from and 3 degrees of EL MINA it went out at 1834 hrs while watching light plane approached from South @ all posts report plane returned South @ Explosions heard BERYOUTH otherwise Sitnorm.	

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.O.O.	INFORMATION	R.
1524 ✓	I480	1057	4 Aust Div H.Q.			O.P. 15862728 reports light at sea approx 3 miles from 3 degrees NE EL MINA went out 1834 hrs @ unidentified plane flew N 1835 hrs returned South 1845 hrs @ Further details later	
1525 ✓	I 480 104	1555 2 Nov.	7 Aust Div	2/5 Bn	1205 2 Nov.	Ref BAALBEK KARTABA and TRIPOLI 1/50 (1) Location statement 2/5 Bn (2) B.H.Q. 18012559 "A" Coy 25962616 "B" Coy 16052615 "C" Coy (17 Q and 2 PLns) 18122544 15 P2 and "D" Coy 17362555 H.Q. Coy 18032559 hrs 1 rec at water pt 17852564	
1526 ✓	I486	1605 2 Nov.	7 Aust Div.		1605 2 Nov.	Amendments to Locations at 23 Oct (2) 2/5 Bn "A" Coy 15962616 "B" Coy 16052615	
1527 ✓	J14	2210 2 Nov		2/3 Bn	1950	H.Q. Coy "A" O.P. reports large fire in easterly direction from O.P. burning as if it is petrol	
1528 ✓	I98	2255 2 Nov		2/3 Bn	2235	D post A Coy advises A/A fire 15 miles South of post at 2153 also heard planes flying NW post at 2200 hrs	
1529 ✓	O259	1735 2 Nov	7 Aust Div H.Q.			Confirming request by telephone 1300 hrs to-day permission requested truck proceed 2/3 Bn to BEYROUTH Mon 3 Nov to collect stores	

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.O.O.	INFORMATION	R.L.
1530 ✓	0261	0914 3 Nov	6 Aust Div			Request you arrange 2/6 Bn send Capt Picken Kerr report 2/8 Bn to assist Capt Picken @ Duty supervise 2/6 Bn area stay indefinite in order release Capt Picken for liaison duties over Bde sector	
1531 ✓	0262	0918 3 Nov	2/5 Bn			Warning Order @ One officer seven sisters 2/1 and 2/2 Aust Gen Hoop staying Mon Refos to night @ Advise if other instructions necessary.	
1532 ✓	0263	0955 3 Nov	6 Aust Div			Copy 1044 Ack	
1533 ✓	1498	1017		2/3 BN	0916	Dawn report @ "A" coy 2/3 BN advises gunfire observed and explosions heard approx 15 miles south of post 2153 hrs @ planes heard in N.W. direction from post 2200 hrs @ fire @ burning roads NE of post 1935 @ "C" Coy reports air alarm 2150 all clear 2230.	
1534 ✓	1481		7 Div.		1046	O.P. 1410 2458 reports H.A. fire 15 miles S of post 2153 hrs.	
1535 ✓	1482		6 Aust Div		1111	Map requirements @ 100 copies Damas N. Damas South. 50. Qatana 50 Zebdani 50 all 1/200,000. @ 30 Damas 1/200,000	
1536 ✓	1483		4 Div		1447	"C" Coy 2/5 BN 1602-2618 of map Tripoli 1/200,000.	

MAP REF.

TRIPOLI

1/200,000

OPERATIONS LOG H.Q. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

R38

DATE 4 Nov 41

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.O.O.	INFORMATION	RLM
1537 ✓	I100	1030		2/3 BN.	0937	Site report dawn report @ "C" coy 2/3 BN reports usual shipping reports movements @ Bofors gun installed at N°8 post 1640 hrs.	
1538 ✓	I484		2/3 BN 2/5 BN.		1040	please note location statements now required 3.11.19.26 each month.	
1539 ✓	I99	1645 3 Nov		2/5 BN	1040	location statement	
1540 ✓	I105	1610 3 Nov		2/5 BN	1540	of TRIPOLI 1/50,000 @ "C" coy location statement now at 16022618	
1541 ✓	0265		7 Div		0950	Nil in reply to SG 1/46/1/140	
1542 ✓	031	1530 4 Nov		7 Aus Div	1430	First @ ADV party H.Q. 17 Aus Inf Bde will move to EL HAME 5 Nov @ Main body will move on 7 Nov @ ST both days 0730 hrs @ SP present location @ Route Coast Road Beyruth EL HAME @ Second @ ADV party 2/3 Aust Inf Bn will move to QATANA 5 Nov @ Main body will move on 7 Nov @ ST both days 0800 hrs @ SP CHEKKA @ route coast road Beyruth Mexxe Qatana @ Third @ 20 MIH 15 VTM POL lot 160 miles @ Carry unconsumed portion and one days hard ration @ Fourth @ Carriers @ Will be carried to RAYAK by rail @ Loading probably 6 Nov @ Confirmation later @	
1543 ✓	I101			2/3 BN	0910	Site and Dawn report @ Site report Dawn report will be made reports not to hand.	

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.O.O.	INFORMATION	R.M.
1543 ✓	0119	1725 4 Nov		7 Aust Div	1620	25 Aust Inf Bde relieves 17 Aust Inf Bde of first defence duties at EL MINA 1200 hrs 6 Nov @ One Coy involved @ thereafter 21 and 25 Aust Inf Bdes relieve each other fortnightly at 1200 hrs each second Sunday first relief taking place 14 Nov @ 25 and 17 Aust Inf Bdes liaison despatch on take over 6 Nov. Ack all informed	
1544 ✓	0121	1740 4 Nov		7 Aust Div	1704	25 Aust Inf Bde will relieve deta of 17 Aust Inf Bde employed on coast watching at 1200 hrs 6 Nov @ Details already given verbally to 25 Aust Inf Bde	
1545 ✓	0122	1820 4 Nov		7 Aust Div	1735	Ref 7 Aust Div 0119 dated 4 21 Aust Inf Bde relieves 17 Aust Inf Bdes EL MINA 6 Nov not repeat Not 25 Aust Inf Bde @ System of relief commencing 6 Nov will then be as detailed in 0119 in reverse order.	
1546 ✓	I 487		2/5 BN		0920	in reply to I 106 @ yes @ anticipate further alterations near future.	
1547 ✓	I 106.	0910		2/5 BN	0820	location statement now require 3. 11. 19 26. showing disposition as at 1200 hrs. on 2 10, 18 25 @ is this correct.	
1548 ✓	I 101	1640		2/3 Bn	1400	C Coy reports heavy motor heard at sea NNW from Mole from 0100 hrs to 0500 hrs 5 Nov.	

MAP REF. TRIPOLI 1/200000

OPERATIONS LOG HQ 17 Aust INF Bde

Sheet 240
DATE 6 Nov 41

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.C.O.	INFORMATION
1549 ✓	I 493		7 DIV		1530	"C" Coy 2/3 BN now located 1575 2646
1550 ✓	I 106	0930		2/3 BN	0910	Sitrep @ Sitnorm Dawn report. "C" Coy 2/3 BN reports shipping animals at 0730 hrs 1610 hrs departures 0710 to 0920 hrs 1225 hrs @ C Post "A" 2/3 BN reported light at sea West of post at 1905 hrs investigated and found to be fishing boat
1551 ✓	I 490		7 DIV		1020	in reply to SG 30/1/93 @ Copy No 1 ack
1552 ✓	I 491		R.A.A 7 DIV		1022	of instr No 23 copy 107 ack
1553 ✓	I 492		1 adv Hq depot.		1335	could 100 copies each sheets DAMAS Nord DAMAS Sud. ZEBDANI, RATANA RACHAYA NORD. 1/50000 be made available for collection 0930 hrs. Friday 7 now please
1554 ✓	I 106	1515		2/3 BN	1305	"C" Coy 2/3 BN advises changed over with 2/16 BN by 1200 hrs @ "C" Coy present location Tripoli 1/50000 1575 2646
1555 ✓	I 492		HQ 6 Aust DIV		1205	HQ. status present location 0930 hrs. 7 Nov re-opens. 195 21781 of map ZEBDANI 1/50000 same time

MAP REF.

TRIPOLI 1/200,000

OPERATIONS LOG

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DATE

Sheet 241
Nov 6

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.O.C.	INFORMATION	R.
1556 ✓	I 497	1640 7 Nov	6 Aust Div		1640 7 Nov	Main body arrived new location 19531778 at 1615 hrs.	
1557 ✓	I 498	1645 7 Nov	2/7-2/5 + 2/6 hrs		1645 7 Nov	H.Q. established 19531778 ref map ZEBDANI 1/50,000	
1558 ✓	I 499	2040 7 Nov	6 Aust Div		2040 7 Nov	Please advise day weekly location statement required.	
1559 ✓	O 853	2110 7 Nov		6 Aust Div	1720 7 Nov	2/3 Aust inf Bn located Qatana and under comd 16 Aust Inf Bde (.) 17 Aust Inf Bde under comd 6 Aust Div located EL NAME from 7 Nov (.) 2/7 Aust inf bn under comd 17 Aust Inf Bde located ADSAYA.	
1560 ✓	I 500	1010 8 Nov	6 Div HQ			Could list G and I returns showing times dates due be flooded please	
1561 ✓	I 501	1117 8 Nov	2/7 Bn			Location statement required as at 1200 hrs 8 Nov.	
1562 ✓	I 152	nil 8 Nov.		2/7 Bn	1327	Location statement @ Ref ZEBDANI 1/50,000 @ A 19431778 B 19431774 C 19411779 D 19441776 HQ 19421781 BN HQ 19421783 @ Detached personnel one off 55 ORs ZEBDANI @ 1 off 3 ORs 6 Aust Div @ 21 ORs TALIA @ In area 23 off 436 ORs	

MAP REF. Zebdani 1/50,000

OPERATIONS LOG

17 Aust Inf Bde

DATE 9 Nov

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.C.O.	INFORMATION
1563 ✓	I153	1200		2/7 Bn	1130	Location statement @ 21 ORs TALIA guard returned A Coy @ Rest no change.
1564 ✓	I502)		6 Aust Div	10 NOV	1737	A/B, 2/5 BN estab at 17701779 at 1720h. @ of map Zebdani 1/50,000, all coys in area.
1565 ✓	I502.)		6 Aust Div	10 NOV	1015	large scale Turkist Map required to obtain full value Corps Summaries.
1566 ✓	I108	1810		2/5 BN	1745	Location Statement.
1567 ✓	I503				1815	updated to 6 Aust Div
1568 ✓	I155	1012		2/7 Bn	0921	Loc / Stat.
1569 ✓	0269	1222 11 Nov	6 Aust Div		1222 11 Nov	First 1 and 63 (.) Second no security duties allotted, following may be necessary 6 and 1708 @ Third 10 hrs 3 and 80 ng sta1 and 30 cement whs 1 and 30 power sta 1 and 30 RAE and pet dumps 1 and 63.
1570 ✓	0/923	2240 10 Nov		6 Aust Div	2105	following details required 1300 hrs 11 Nov @ FIRST number fully combatant tps you come employed on static gd duties incl escorts @ SECOND additional numbers gds who would be employed on vital pts if extra gds made available to you @ THIRD full details manner you would employ, any tps allotted you to take over completely both situations referred to above @ all informed
1571 ✓	0270	17	2/6 Bn		1705 12 Nov	(IMPORTANT) nomination required immediately one offr attend AIF (ME) SME no 4 course fd in wing 1-20 Dec @ signal reply.

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.O.O.	INFORMATION	R.M.A.
1572 ✓	I 158	0950		2/7 Bn	0938	location statement @ no change @ 85 OR reinforcements 12 Nov @ all coys.	
1573 ✓	I 505	0953	6 Aust Div			2/7 Bn 85 OR reinforcements 12 Nov @ all coys.	
1574 ✓	O 84	1109 13 Nov.	6 Aust Div	16 Aust Inf Bde	0845 13 Nov.	Blue very light seen in sky at 2130 hrs night 12/13 Nov. by Major Buller of 2/2 Bn. Distance from Bn H.Q. 2/2 Bn approx 10 miles. 10000 ft. (height) on bearing 31 degrees. (Intercepted Message)	
1575 ✓	AI/77	2245 13 Nov.		2/6 Bn	1618	2/6 Bn moved new location GLASFUR lines 14 Nov. 41 (C) Order 9 Aust Div.	
1576 ✓	I 154	0915 14 Nov. 41		2/7 Bn	0850 14 Nov.	Location Statement (C) No change.	
1577 ✓	O 271		H.Q. 6 Aust Div		1000	Standing orders recently amended now in course of reprint @ should forward end of each week.	
1578 ✓	I 145	15 Nov 1015 15 Nov		2/7 Bn	0955	Location Statement @ no change	
1579 ✓	O 1005	1607 14 Nov		6 Aust Div	1450	please forward to this H.Q. four copies of your standing orders in Bdes will also forward standing orders for an inf Bn all in joms	
1580 ✓	I 506	1335 15 Nov. 41	6 Aust Div		1335 15 Nov	Issues LAIBOU HERMEL sheets 1/25000 1/50000 required earliest.	
1581 ✓	O 104	1440 17 Nov.		10 Corps	1155	H.Q. 10 Corps closes BHAMDOUN. Opens Orient palace hotel Damascus 0930 hrs 19 Nov.	

SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.C.O.	INFORMATION
1582 ✓	O 273	1000	2/5 2/7 Bn		1000	Warning order @ dates tentatively fixed cloths model exercise 25 Nov T&WT 26 Nov @ no limit offers attend cloths model @ Gp attend T&WT.
1583 ✓	I 109	1125		2/5 Bn	1005	Loc/State.
1584	I 507	1630	6 Aust Div		1630	For 'A' Coy 2/6 Bn Boalbek. @ Col brigley arrive upon HQ 1830 18 Nov.
1585 ✓	I 508	1635	19 Aust Div		1635	Lt/col brigley will arrive upon HQ AM 19 Nov.
1586 ✓	O 274	1006 (19 Sep)	2/6 Bn apt 9 Aust Div		1006 (19 Sep)	Following offer report 17 Aust inf bde 1600 hrs Monday 24 Nov upon T.E.W.T @ Majors Rowan, Norris, Capts Swinbourne, Jones, Shildrick, Lieuts Roberts, Pawson, Lieut Pawson remain attached all others return Thursday 27 Nov. @ ack.
1587 ✓	I 508	1210 (19 Sep)	2/5 Bn		(19 Sep)	2/13 7d Amb located DHOUR CHOER. 1480 2190 26 Oct.
1588 ✓	I 509	1540 19 Nov.	6 Div.		1540 19 Nov	Ack (-) In Reply to I/1574
1589 ✓	D6	0900 18 Nov		2/6 Bn	2013	In Reply to D274 (-) Ack.
1590 ✓	I 512	1400 20 Nov.	6 Div.		1400 20 Nov.	Location Statement Coy 9 Div AFSC required earliest
1591 ✓	O/1185	1605 20 Nov.		6 Div.	1530 20 Nov	In Reply to I 512) Gules

MAP REF.

ZEBDANI

1/50000

OPERATIONS LOG

17 Aust Inf Bde

DATE

Sheet 245

20 Nov

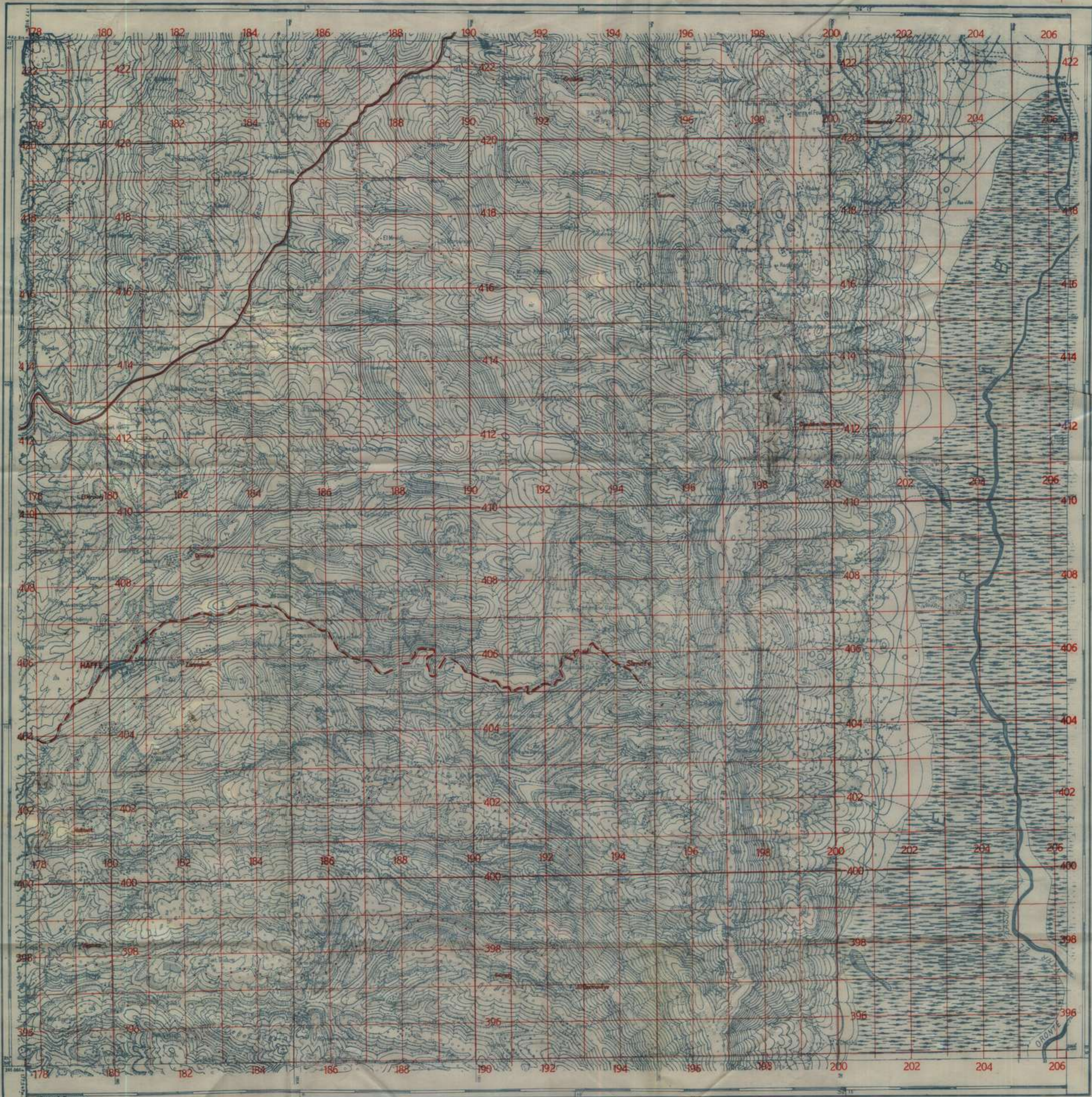
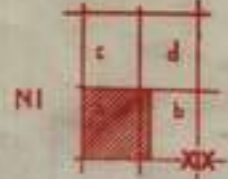
SERIAL NO.	ORIG. NO.	TIME REC. OR SENT.	CUTWARD TO.	INWARD FROM	T.O.O.	INFORMATION	R.L.
1592 ✓	I 513	1606 20 Nov	2/7 Bn		1606 20 Nov	AASC 9 Div located Jelis.	
1593 ✓	I 514	1650 20 Nov	6 Aust Div		1650 20 Nov	For Chaplain McKie (?) Suggest Saturday inevitable for visiting units this area due Gynkhana Bayirath	
1594 ✓	I 514	1005 21 Nov	2/5 & 2/7 Bns		1005 21 Nov	Scale 1/10000 will be used for enlargements fortress areas.	
1595 ✓	I 110	1412 24 Nov		2/5 bn.	—	Location Statement (C) Ref ZEBDANI 1/50000 (C) BHQ. 19761776 "A" Coy 19761778 "B" Coy 19801778 "C" Coy 19761774 "D" Coy 19771772 (C) Ref Damas Nord 1/50000 H.Q. Coy 19821777	
1596 ✓	O 275	1610 25 Nov	6 Aust Div		1610 25 Nov	10 Bays inform us under coord work and operations under 6 Aust Div. Admin only (C) Request confirmation.	
1597 ✓	RAC/267	2045 (27 Nov)	10 Corps	10 Corps	1900 27 Nov	For comd 7 Inf Bn. from CCRA propose visit your HQ tomorrow 1200 hrs & may you 10 accompany me on run @ if not convenient please say.	
1598 ✓		2100 hrs (27 Nov)	2/7 bn			from 10 Corps @ CCRA 10 Corps propose visit your HQ tomorrow 1200 hrs @ may you 10 accompany me on run @ if not convenient please say.	
1599 ✓	O 277	1040 (29 Nov)	19 Aust Inf Bde			Request you inform Col Wright. Least Detach required for rice	
1600 ✓	I 515	1202 (30 Nov)	6 Aust Div			Ack.	
1601 ✓	I 516	0838 (1 DEC)	6 Aust Div			adv part rd Party 2/6 Bn 17951830	

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

FRENCH (LEVANT) GRID

HAFFE

PROVISIONAL EDITION
LEVANT 1/50,000 SHEET



MAGNETIC DECLINATION



Magnetic North 1° 58' East of True North in the centre of this sheet.
Annual change 0° 3' towards the East.



D. R. 444
© 19

Ground surveyed in 1937
Drawn, lithographed and published by
Service Géographique de l'Armée.

Scale 1:50 000

Reproduced under the direction of the Survey Directorate
G. H. Q. M. E. June 1941 (From a French map dated 1935)

- Conventional Signs
- 1st Class Road ...
 - 2nd " " ...
 - 3rd " " ...
 - Motorable Track ...
 - Track ...
 - Footpath ...
 - Difficult path ...
 - Railways, Standard gauge ...
 - Narrow " " ...

TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET
This sheet is on French (Levant) Grid.
Note: Only even grid lines are numbered.

POINT KHARE ED DJIZ	
TAKT Take west edge of square in which point lies and read the figure printed opposite this line (on north or east margin) or on the line itself (on the line of the sheet). Estimate tenth eastward.	NEED Take south edge of square in which point lies and read the figure printed opposite this line (on east or west margin) or on the line itself (on the line of the sheet). Estimate tenth northward.
REFERENCE TAKT TO NEAREST 100 METRES	REFERENCE NEED TO NEAREST 100 METRES
Unit: Metres	Unit: Metres
Scale: 1:50,000	Scale: 1:50,000

Contours at 50 M. Vertical Interval
10 M.

CONVERGENCE

At West Sheet Edge Grid North is 0° 46' 03" West of True North	At longitude 36° 15' Grid North is 0° 37' 32" West of True North
---	---

- Conventional Signs
- Water mill, well, spring, reservoir ...
 - Telegraph office, Telephone post office ...
 - Wireless Telegraph station ...
 - Landing ground, Factory ...
 - Church, chapel, calvary, cemetery ...
 - Mosque, Khaubba, Tomb ...
 - Rains ...
 - Trig. point spot height ...

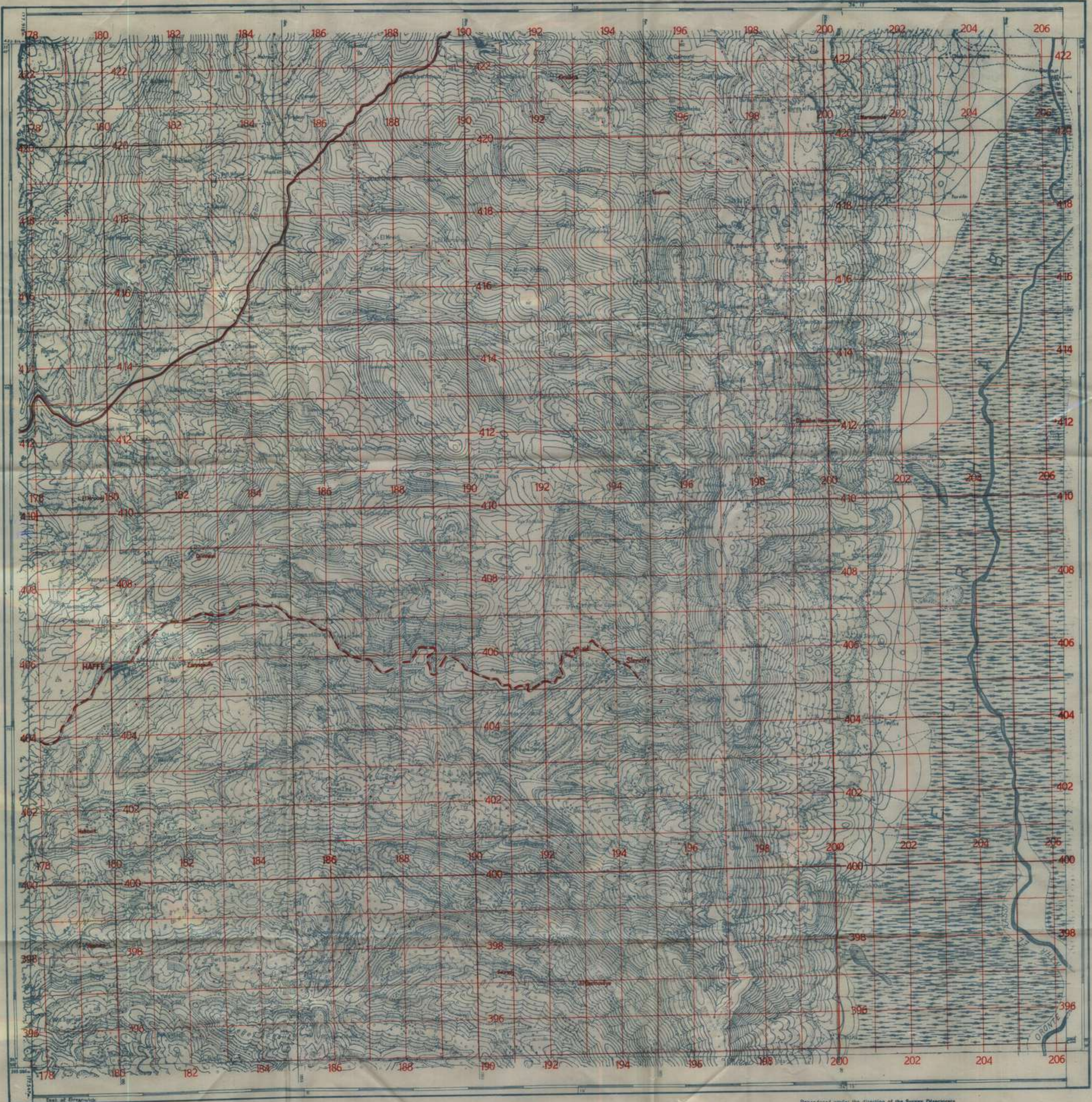
- Conventional Signs
- Edge of Wood, Cultivation, Fence ...
 - Isolated Trees, (Deciduous, Coniferous, Palm)
 - Wood
 - Scrub
 - Orchard
 - Gardens
 - Vineyards
 - Olive Groves

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

FRENCH (LEVANT) GRID

HAFFE

PROVISIONAL EDITION
LEVANT 1/50,000 SHEET



MAGNETIC DECLINATION



Magnetic North 1° 58' East of True North in the centre of this sheet.
Annual change 0.3' towards the East.



D. R. 444
6 18

Ground surveyed in 1937.
Drawn, lithographed and published by
Service Géographique de l'Armée.

Scale 1:50,000

Reproduced under the direction of the Survey Directorate
O. H. Q. M. E., June 1961 (From a French map Dated 1936)

- Conventional Signs
- 1st Class Road ...
 - 2nd " " ...
 - 3rd " " ...
 - Motorable Track ...
 - Track ...
 - Footpath ...
 - Difficult path ...
 - Railways, Standard gauge ...
 - Narrow " " ...

TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET
This sheet is on French (Levant) Grid
Note: Only even grid lines are numbered

POINT WHANE ED DIOZ

KART	NORTH
Take west edge of zone in which point is located the figure printed against the line (on north or east margin) or on the line itself (on the face of the map). Estimate tenths against the line.	Take south edge of zone in which point lies and read the figure printed opposite the line (on east or west margin) or on the line itself (on the face of the map). Estimate tenths southwards against the line.
105	439
3	1
1855	NORTH 4391

REFERENCE 184391 TO NEAREST 100 METRES

1:50,000
Scale of the map
Horizontal distance of 1:50,000

Contours at 50 M. Vertical Interval
10 M.

CONVERGENCE

At West Sheet Edge Grid North is 0° 46' 03" West of True North

At longitude 36° 15' Grid North is 0° 37' 32" West of True North

- Conventional Signs
- Water mill, well, spring, reservoir ...
 - Telegraph office, Telephone post office ...
 - Wireless Telegraph station ...
 - Landing ground, Factory ...
 - Church, chapel, calvary, cemetery ...
 - Mosque, Khaudda, Tomb ...
 - Ruins ...
 - Trig. point spot height ...

- Edge of Wood, Cultivation, Fence,
Isolated Trees, (Deciduous, Coniferous, Palm)
- Wood
 - Scrub
 - Orchard
 - Garages
 - Vineyards
 - Olive Groves

