AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters,
formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/3/6
ARMY

First Army General (Air)

July-August 1945



1/3/6-0096

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Month : JULY

Year : 1945

Branch ..... GS (Air) .....

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
LAE	1-30 Jul	Produced First Aust Army ALO Bulletins No 258 - 288	Appx "A"	
	24 Jul	Lt Col A B MILLARD GSO 1 (Air) departed LAE for TOROKINA		
	28 Jul	LT Col A B MILLARD GSO 1 (Air) returned from TOROKINA		
	31 Jul	Lt Col A B MILLARD GSO 1 (Air) departed LAE for JACQUINOT		

E G Gibbyson Capt
for Lt Col
GS

W.D

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 258
(Compiled from infm to 010900K)

GENERAL

3550 REPORT ON CLOSE AIR SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION

A close air support demonstration was held on 22 Jun 45 by RNZAF FIVA-based CORSAIRS in conjunction with 25 Aust Inf Bn.

(a) To test the efficiency of a method of long range indication of targets whilst still retaining surprise effect.

(b) To decrease the time lag between the appearance of smoke on the target and the fall of the bombs.

The exercise called for the laying of mortar smoke on an "indicator" area which was at a pre-determined distance and bearing from the actual target area; this was followed by mortar smoke on the target laid by two alternative methods -

(a) On call from Flight Leader

(b) At a given time interval after the laying of Indicator smoke.

The tests were concluded satisfactorily both when "indicator and target" smoke were called for separately, and when one followed the other automatically at a pre-arranged interval. However, changing atmospherics caused the mortar smoke to become visible within varying times, thus accounting for some delay from the time it appeared until the bombs fell on the target.

With regard to timings, on one test bombs fell on the target area after an elapsed time of 20 secs from appearance of smoke on target, which allowed for 5 secs prior observation before the aircraft commenced to dive, and 15 secs from commencement of dive to bomb burst.

The following observations were made:-

(i) The idea of using the method to indicate targets, at the same time retaining surprise, is favoured by the Air Force.

(ii) The method of calling individually for firstly "indicator" and then "target" smoke is preferable; this is for two reasons; firstly if reception of ground station by aircraft is not established then should aircraft call for "indicator" smoke and that smoke appears flight leader may assume that he is heard by ground station, and can therefore call for "target" smoke when he requires it. Secondly, if radio contact is established only long enough to allow flight leader to call for "indicator" smoke, on non appearance of "target" smoke due to subsequent failure in communications, the area can be orbited and a second approach made after establishing radio contact, without having divulged to the enemy the actual area to be attacked.

(iii) The minimum elapsed time from appearance of "target" smoke and the bursting of the first bomb cannot reasonably be expected to be less than 35 secs, allowing 20 secs for observation of the smoke by flight leader, and a further 15 secs for commencement of dive from 4,500/5,000 ft until the bomb falls.

(iv) In requests for air support, army formation would have to state the time in which appearance of smoke could be guaranteed after call from aircraft, taking into account time of flight of mortar bomb, as well as atmospheric and topographical factors.

(v) To achieve successful application of the method, good communications are essential.

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3551 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 57/60 Aust Inf Bn. The Bn is now concentrated in the SHISHIGATERO area West of the MIVO ford. Bn HQ 110347, A Coy 112345, B Coy 112345, C Coy 111338, D Coy 108337. An attack on A Coy East of KILLENS track was dispersed by tanks. An armed patrol contacted A Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn on the BUIN road. Enemy casualties in the Bn area were 7 killed. Hostile shelling of the Bn area was ineffective.

24 Aust Inf Bn. A force of 70 to 100 Japs were sighted South of KATSUWA at 094401.

MOBIAI RIVER. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. B Coy West of the ford cleared the BUIN road about 2000 yds East to D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol made contact North of the BUIN road at 086352. A PIB patrol located an enemy dug in position with an unknown number of enemy at 086334 South of the road. Patrols which moved 1200 yds South of the road report no contacts. C Coy is located West of the river at 078361 and D Coy West of the ford 079354. Enemy casualties were 2 killed.

RUSEI. 15 Aust Inf Bn. This Bn has moved forward to occupy the following positions: Bn HQ 035362, A Coy 039361, pl 973329 B Coy 033363, C Coy 037364, D Coy 039365.

42 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol contacted enemy on the BUIN road at 084346 and cleared the area. Enemy casualties were 4 killed, 1 PW, own 1 wounded.

AIB report jungle mines killed 11 Japs for certain and an unknown number were killed later.

Our scouts were fired on near MIMARINO 300430 when trying to recce the NAVAL HQ near MULIKO bridge, the scouts returned fire and shot 2 Japs.

Much MT has been heard day and night on the BUIN road between MAKARU 306299 and LAGUI No. 2 250293.

The OC of all KEMBIS at 358352 is said to be named SETO and reputed to be a Lt Gen. Later information is that the Lt Gen is KATAWA and not KANDA as reported in our last bulletin and most of the troops in this area were previously at EDERYS LEASE.

One possible large naval gun is reported at the entrance to TONOLEI Harbour near the beach at 482290 opposite a rock approx 50 yds off shore.

4 large houses about 100 ft long and containing food, tobacco, clothing and small arms are located from 354352 to 354349.

3552 CENTRAL SECTOR

WAKUNAI. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol returning from the East coast cleared enemy from our base North of the river at 738294 and all our equipment was recaptured. The patrol then returned to 3 Coy further inland.

PIATERAPAIA. Following an accurate air strike, arty and mortar support a patrol engaged a position on WEARNES HILL at 694174 and cleared the enemy from the fwd slopes. Heavy fire was encountered from 15/20 Japs using 1 Juki and 3 LMGs from a bunkered position. Casualties in the Bn area were 5 enemy killed, 3 probably killed, 7 wounded, own k killed 1 wounded.

3553 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol made contact at 313718 and 3 Japs were sighted SE RATSUA at 308678. The sig wire was cut by the Japs at 309700 and the wire was used for an improvised mine. A FIB patrol to UMUM made no contact. An abandoned truck in good condition was found at 329720 North of the RATSUA - RURI track. Enemy casualties in the area were 5 killed, own 1 killed, 5 wounded.

8 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacts were made East of BUOI Plantation at 293697, 296905 and 287703, equipment and documents were captured in the area. MT was heard South of RATSUA at 298679 and East of BUOI 294701 and enemy booby traps were located at 298679. Casualties in the area were 5 enemy killed and 4 probably killed.

NEW BRITAIN

3554 OPEN BAY

C Coy, one pl D Coy and Bn Command post of 37/52 Aust Inf Bn is established SE of COOPERS CLEARING at 298614.

A party of C Coy 1 NGIB moved from 287614 to the MATALAILI river and contacted 4 Japs and 1 KEMEI at 285634 South of the river. Our casualties were 1 wounded. They located an enemy postion at 284635 occupied and a position on the North bank of the river occupied at 285639. The patrol returned to 287614.

NEW GUINEA

3555 COASTAL SECTOR

WEWAK. 19 Aust Inf Bde. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol from SHIBURANGU to SAURI 2802 killed 4 Japs in a bunkered position, they were engaged by 20 enemy West of the track at 296007, 3 Japs were killed in this action.

2/4 Aust Inf Bn. An attack on a strong defensive position West of MT TAZAKI at 324004 was halted by heavy fire from 30 enemy with LMGs. Aggressive patrols maintained contact and recaptured the position together with another at 326007.

2/6 Aust Cav Cdo Regt. During the night 28/29 Jun a patrol sighted tracks of 35 enemy who had moved West from 135192, SE BOIKEN. A native patrol reports this party has pickets established at NUMATLI (.) 137164 and (2) 134166. Another native patrol reports WUBIN village South of DAGUA 9617 is clear of enemy. On 30 Jun our carrier line was ambushed by 30 enemy South of BOIKEN at 114205. Two Japs were killed, two own killed, one wounded.

Total casualties not reported are 18 Japs killed and own 3 killed 5 wounded, 1 native killed.

3556 INLAND SECTOR

17 Aust Inf Bde. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. A fighting patrol engaged enemy in unknown strength at UANINGE 748951.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. On 29 Jun a platoon occupied a position 811009 North of ULUNKOHOITU unopposed.

2 NGIB. One Coy cleared and occupied MIKAU 676870 and WAHOMTUOTU 676867 killing 6 enemy. A patrol along the KWIMBU track reached 721877 SE KWIMBU. They report 20 enemy at KWIMBU 737884. A further patrol contacted 16 enemy at WININGI 672857. Concentration of the Bn in the area 676904 has been completed.

Total casualties not previously reported are 10 enemy killed, own 1 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3557 BOUGAINVILLE

30 Jun. 31 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed an enemy concentration at KIKIBATSAGO 316398, fires being started. 12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed a defensive position at WEARNES HILL 695171 with unobserved results.

AIB report the last raid on ULA was most successful. Many huts were strafed but they were unable to ascertain the number of casualties. The remainder of the enemy are now living in 3 small camps which have been pin pointed for future attacks.

An air strike near the junction of SILIBAI and UGIMO rivers was very successful as everything in the target area including a fuel dump was destroyed. A few Japs remain in the area living in leaf shelters.

3558 NEW IRELAND

30 Jun. 3 VENTURAS scored direct hits on huts at PINIKINDU but the extent of the damage is unknown. 3 VENTURAS bombed PIRE causing brown smoke to 1500 ft after the attack. 6 MITCHELLS bombed as a secondary target the AA NW KAVIENG strip causing black smoke to 2000 ft. 9 MITCHELLS followed with 36 x 650 pounders bombing the AA at KAVIENG putting 24 in the target area. 6 other MITCHELLS then bombed AA North of KAVIENG town with unobserved results. To finish the days total 6 MITCHELLS bombed as a secondary target the AA North of KAVIENG with no damage.

3559 NEW GUINEA

30 Jun. 18 BEAUFORTS bombed with a proportion of incendiaries enemy dug in position on a ridge at W298003. Majority of the bombs were on the target but low cloud obscured results. 9 BEAUFORTS with some incendiaries bombed and strafed KUNAI ridge A768971 to 771971, putting the majority of bombs in the target area. Small fires were started but the majority of the area is now burnt out.

PHOTO COVERAGES

NEW GUINEA

3560 Title YOGEI TRING Sqn 6 Sqn NORCOM

Mission MDG/5 Serials Run 5 1/32 Run 7 Date 20 Jun 45
Run 6 33/62 Run 7 63/97

RF 1:20000 Maps WEWAK AMBUNTI 4 miles 1"

Co-ords Run 5 1/32 B3481, 3881, 3823, 4223, Run 6 33/62 B3588, 3988, 3426, 3826, Run 7 63/97 B1294, 1694, 2128, 2529

Type of Photos K17V Quality Good with some scattered cloud.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3561 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3320 ALO Bulletin No. 244

3562 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3563 NEW BRITAIN - see para 2433 ALO Bulletin No. 183.

3564 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3565 BRUNEI WEST. 20 Aust Inf Bde.

2/13 Aust Inf Bn, patrolled 413803 without opposition. Enemy bivouac areas at 557828 and 541866 were bombed.

2/17 Aust Inf Bn. A river patrol reached BALAI 7890 and SEMBARU 8890, no movement was seen.

3566 LABUAN EAST. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn. Coys at 368944 and 355923 are protecting the left flank of 2/43 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol from WESTON along the railway to 262792 near BUKAU reported the area clear of enemy and the railway serviceable.

2/32 Aust Inf Bn. The Bn less one Coy continued its advance East.

2/43 Aust Inf Bn is engaged clearing isolated pockets of enemy in the BEAUFORT area.

3567 TARAKAN

26 Aust Inf Bde. Patrolling continues. Enemy casualties were 22 killed 2 estimated dead, 5 PW.

H. C. Higson
for Lt Col Capt.
GS

G(Air)
1 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239.

WD

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 259
(Compiled from Infm to 020900K)

SITUATION

3568 CHOISEUL ISLAND

Our AIB operative reports that in the Japanese evacuation by barge they left 3 canoes and a dinghy intact and a damaged MG at TERETUKURE, (NW CHOISEUL). There was no trace of a gun except some shell cases of approx 37 mm where a gun had previously fired on one of our corvettes.

BOUGAINVILLE

3569 SOUTHERN SECTOR

RAFFLES FORCE. Patrols report heavy movement on the BUIN Road in the vicinity of the PORROR River ford 195322 and are unable to cross to the South. Patrols report 50 Japs building camps at 231345 West of SILIBAI river and at 222347 West of the PORROR River branch. Enemy are also reported active at KANAURA 233354 and MAKORAI 216377. A patrol was unable to reach SILIBAI ford 230297 due to enemy activity.

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. A Coy is now established on the BUIN road at 099337. During the night 30 Jun 1 Jul two small enemy parties contacted D Coy but no results are reported. Enemy 75 mm guns South of the road at 090340 knocked out one of our bulldozers at point blank range. Patrol clashes occurred at 096337 on BUIN Road East of the MOBIAI river 077377 and NW KATSUWA at 091411. Small enemy parties were sighted South of the road at 094332, 087343 and West of KILLENS track and signs of a heavy recent move North in the Bn area. A PIB patrol engaged 40 Japs in a position South of the road at 102332. Casualties in the area were 5 enemy killed 5 wounded 1 grave found own 3 killed 5 wounded.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn. Hostile shelling by 75 mm and 105 mm guns was reported in C Coy near SHISHIGATERO and to the North at 113349 without causing casualties. 1 Jap was killed in the area.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol contact occurred on the BUIN road at 085345 and 5 enemy were killed.

AIB report that survivors from a strike in the vicinity of the SILIBAI and UGINO rivers are building houses on the North edge of the road from SILIBAI river to approx 292320.

A large Jap concentration is reported at approx 373347, MAIKA area, of about 200 yds in diameter enclosed by the road to the NW and a garden to the SE and extends 200 yds South to the edge of a garden at 374345.

Many enemy are camped around a clearing containing 5 huts at 345355 NW MAIKA. An air attack has been requested. About 100 enemy are reported in houses on the East side of a garden at 341405 NE KIKIBATSIAGO and many Japs are located in huts East of PALIDON approx 272452 between 2 small streams.

3570 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATEAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol has moved round to the rear of the enemy position in the WEARNES HILL area 694174 and have cut the track. A PIB pl base has been established to the West at 694168. Scouts report an enemy party has moved South from IRU and are digging in on the track at 628220.

3571 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged an enemy defensive position NE BUOI plantation at 292707 where the Japs have 4 LMG. Casualties were 2 enemy killed 2 probably killed, own 1 wounded.

27 Aust Inf Bn. Communications out.

Our AIB patrol met another large enemy force well equipped with 2 LMGs, rifles. Our patrol had no casualties in action fought a.m. 29th at SW MANGORINA 447620. 5 Japs including a Captain were killed and many others probably killed or wounded. The Japs retired to a hill in RUGEN plantation.

As our small patrol was greatly outnumbered it retired to base but scouts departed at daylight on 30th to keep contact. There is no further news of the Jap party which retreated across RAMAZON River. Scouts report tracks of a large Jap force which crossed RAUA River at approx 453655 night 29/30 Jun going West.

NEW BRITAIN

3572 WIDE BAY

AIB report refugees from ARAMIBON 744900 state that 6 Japs incl an NCO and about 12 KEMBIES are garrisoned there, with 5 Japs incl an NCO and approx 12 KEMBIES at AMMARANAGOI 780853.

3573 OPEN BAY

27/52 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy less one pl is established at 289614 SE of COOPERS clearing and one pl at WATU POINT. The enemy position at MATALAILI river 285639 is believed to be held in strength.

1 NGIB. Patrol reports footprints of 25/30 Japs and KEMBIES at 289633 NE of COOPERS clearing. The patrol has retired to 287614 SE of the clearing.

NEW GUINEA

3574 COASTAL SECTOR

ANNANBERG. A Section standing patrol has been re-established at WOBU 410511.

WEWAK. 19 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols are active in all areas.

2/6 Aust Cav Cdo Regt. A native patrol reports there are indications that the enemy ambush party are now at YUGO area 105195.

2/4 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ is now on the coast near MISSION POINT at 338056.

30 Aust Inf Bn. One Coy is now established near MT TAZAKI at 336005.

Total casualties in this area are 5 enemy killed.

3575 INLAND SECTOR

17 Aust Inf Bde. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol observed enemy on ridges near ULEBILUM 783972 and 771971. UANINGE 748951 has been cleared without opposition.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol reports enemy in occupation of ridges West of ULUNKOHOITU 802000 and 807998 and enemy in unknown strength West of ILIPEM 791977.

An estimated 100 enemy occupied a position with overhead cover which was located at 798992 North of ILIPEM.

2 NGIB. A fighting patrol cleared WININGI 672857 killing 7 enemy. One pl occupied TUWAIGUM 652854 killing 5 enemy, we had three native soldiers wounded. A recce patrol to NILAH, reference of which is corrected to 689832, estimate 25 enemy in the village. The pl contacted 10 at 715876, and 20 at KWIMBU 737884, the results are not known.

Total casualties not previously reported are 27 enemy killed own 3 wounded and 1 sentry boy wounded.

Our AIB patrol reports NUNGAGUA is now clear of Japs who are believed to have gone to KAINJA.

OWN AIROPS

3576 BOUGAINVILLE

1 Jul 45. 20 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy concentrations MAIKA area at 361353 and 359355. Three huts were destroyed. 24 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed stores and Jap occupied huts from 354352 to 354349 (MAIKA area). 12 huts were destroyed, 4 Japs killed by strafing and fires started. 24 CORSAIRS bombed enemy troops and Jap occupied huts 228373. One hut was destroyed. 23 CORSAIRS bombed enemy defences MIVO river area 117340 to 119340 and 119340 to 122341.

AIB report the CORSAIR attack on 17 Army HQ on 17 Jun was most accurate resulting in the area being bombed out and it is not now occupied by the enemy.

An interesting point has been obtained from a PW regarding our bombing in Southern BOUGAINVILLE. He states:-

> "Allied bombing is very accurate. There is not a unit that has not been bombed to some extent. 17 Army HQ was completely destroyed at one time. Since PWs unit was located in an out of the way location in the open field it has not been bombed."
> (COMAIRNORSOLS daily summary 27 June)

3577 NEW BRITAIN

1 Jul. 8 VENTURAS bombed underground pars shelters at SULPHUR CREEK with unobserved results. 9 MITCHELLS bombed stores and huts SE TOBOI. 6 MITCHELLS bombed tunnel entrances TAWLIUA results were unobserved. 9 MITCHELLS led in by CORSAIR bombed huts at WUNALAK 745306, 2 fires were started.

3578 NEW GUINEA

30 Jun. 20 BEAUFORTS bombed ULUPU from A772954 to A774962 with good coverage. 4 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed WEREMAN A7353. At least 20 huts were destroyed by fire and blast. 1 BEAUFORT bombed huts in the vicinity of WOSERA A6581 4 huts being destroyed.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3579 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3320 ALO Bulletin No. 244

3580 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3581 NEW BRITAIN - see para 2433 ALO Bulletin No. 183.

3582 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3583 BRUNEI WEST

20 Aust Inf Bde. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged 50 enemy at 406799 with mortars and MMGs and later located 10 Indian PW.

2/15 Aust Inf Bn. A river patrol reached LABU 7525.

3584 LABUAN EAST

24 Aust Inf Bde. 2/43 Aust Inf Bn. One Coy captured a position at 384895.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn is now concentrated in the BEAUFORT area. Patrols to 395985 report no movement seen. A patrol moving North along the railway WESTON BEAUFORT contacted an enemy position at LUMADAN 3081.

3585 TARAKAN

26 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols have made several contacts. Casualties are 26 enemy killed 5 estimated additional dead and 11 PW. Own Nil.

A Stewart
Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
2 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239.

WD

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 260
(Compiled from infm to 030900K)

GENERAL

3586 REACTIONS TO PROPAGANDA - BRITISH NEW GUINEA

The most significant event, not merely for the month under review, but for the whole of the propaganda campaign in the SWPA, was the organised surrender on 3 May 45 of 42 Japanese soldiers, headed by their C.O., a Lt-Colonel, at WOMGRER in the AITAPE sector. This body of Japanese was the remnants of a complete unit. They were reported as being well fed, clothed and disciplined. Leaflet propaganda played an important part in the surrender.

Contact had been made with this Unit, and skirmishes had taken place, after which contact was lost. When an Australian patrol approached the area again, a FELO leaflet was found tagged on a stick in the middle of the track, with the following message written in the blank space on the reverse: "We intend to cease fighting, send an officer to this place." When an Australian officer and some men went to the rendezvous, the Japanese, for unknown reasons, had left. However, they were eventually traced, and a native was sent into the position with a white flag, to inform the Japanese that an Australian officer was waiting for them. The Japanese unit Adjutant and two others then met the Australian officer, and arranged the surrender, which was carried out the next day, being handled in a capable and well-disciplined manner by the Japanese CO.

Reasons for surrender: The Japanese CO's reasons for surrender were intensely rational, and on the lines of the arguments set forth in FELO leaflets, such as the hopelessness of continued resistance and his duty towards his men. However, he did not wish to return to Japan after the war, saying that if he were to be exchanged, he would have no option but to surrender.

Most of the prisoners, including the officers, had leaflets in their possession when captured. They all considered them well written, and did not object to any one argument. They were doubtful of the success of surrender propaganda, considering their own case rather unique. They all admitted, however, that surrender leaflets might make the men think, at least, and that eventually some success could be achieved.

(Extract from FELO Review of Reactions to Propaganda No. 21 of 20 Jun 45)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3587 SOUTHERN SECTOR

RAFFLES FORCE. The enemy patrols are active in the PIANO MISSION area and signs indicate that 60 enemy moved West along the COMMANDO road through TABOPA 119404 during the night 30 Jun 1 Jul.

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. On 1 Jul a bulldozer struck a mine between A and D Coys, damage is not reported. A position on the BUIN road at 090340 containing an enemy gun was cleared by our troops following an arty concentration, but the enemy destroyed the gun before withdrawing. Small enemy parties were sighted West of the TOKODO river in the vicinity of 080387. On 2 Jul a line party was attacked and dispersed by 20 Japs at 091368 between the MOBIAI river and KILLENS track. New locations are Bn HQ MUSAKAKA 045373 A Coy West of NW BIAI river 072382 and D Coy MUSAKAKA 047374. Casualties in the Bn area were 8 enemy killed, 2 graves found, own 2 missing.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn. During 1 Jul signs of movement were seen of 100 Japs at 100346 moving North along a track West of KILLENS track. Minor contacts were made West of the MIVO river at 104325 and 180332. Heavy hostile shelling of the Bn area by 252 rounds 75 mm 150mm including approx 70 blinds was carried out 1 Jul. A picric mine was found. On 2 Jul A Coy, North of SHISHIGATEKO, repulsed an attack from an unknown number of enemy. Further mines were found in A and C Coy areas. A standing party of 30 enemy is reported North of Coy between it and the other Coys. Casualties in the Bn area were 9 enemy killed, 2 wounded, own 1 killed, 10 wounded.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn. A Coy is located on the BUIN road at 077355 and C Coy at 067363. No other information.

15 Aust Inf Bn. New locations of the Bn along the BUIN road are, Bn HQ 075354, A Coy 072355, B Coy 076356, C Coy 077357, D Coy 073358.

42 Aust Inf Bn. On 1 Jul small parties of enemy engaged B and C Coys East of the MOBIAI river. On 2 Jul further clashes occurred at 101319 West of the MIVO river where there were signs of considerable movement, at 089334 and 087333 which was later vacated following a mortar concentration, another clash was reported in A Coy area North of the road. C Coy with mortar support attacked and occupied an enemy position 60 yds South of the Coy. Casualties in the Bn area were 17 enemy killed, own 1 killed 3 wounded.

47 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy was engaged by enemy parties armed with LMGs on KILLENS track at 103360 and the Coy is now established at 103364.

AIB report that partisans from TARATUGU 257803 attacked the Japs at WIDA 302779 on 27 and 29 Jul and claim 30 Japs killed and 3 houses destroyed. MONTONAO 286807 partisans killed 2 Japs on the coast near REBOINE 322870 on 27 Jun.

3588 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol has established an ambush in the rear of the enemy position at 694174, and another enemy position 200 yds to the North was engaged by PIB killing 5 enemy and 1 probably.

3589 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacts occurred at 301704, 311709, 314692, 323706, casualties being 4 enemy killed, 1 wounded, 1 PW, own 2 killed 2 wounded.

BUOI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. During the night 1/2 Jul the enemy were active around C Coy area. On 2 Jul an enemy ambush containing 2 LMGs engaged a patrol at 287704, casualties being 1 enemy wounded, own 1 wounded.

NEW BRITAIN

3590 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy less one pl plus one pl C Coy NGIB was established South of the MATALAILI river at 285634. Following an air attack in this area the inf less NGIB returned to previous location at 289614 and one pl NGIB to 287612 SE of COOPERS Clearing. No movement was seen.

NEW GUINEA

3591 COASTAL SECTOR

19 Aust Inf Bde. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol located

sentries and defences on the BIB Road to SAURI at 303000, 297007 and 292014.

2/4 Aust Inf Bn. Amend location of Bn HQ to read 337018 - SE of KOIGIN. Harassing fire was directed on to a Jap position West of MT TAZAKI. Our patrols are active throughout the area.

2/11 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol cleared a small Jap pocket East of MT TAZAKI 347003 and engaged a position 3400.

2/3 Aust MG Bn, report light ineffective shelling of BRANDI plantation.

16 Aust Inf Bde. 4 Javanese have been recovered from SANEUKAVA 185071.

2/6 Aust Cav Cdo Regt. Natives report AMOIA 997168 clear after our artillery fire. Small Jap parties were active in the vicinity of BOIKEN during the night 1/2 Jul and our patrols are active around KOANGDEBU 106176 and AMOIA 098175.

Total casualties not previously reported are 7 enemy killed 4 Javanese recovered, own 1 killed, 2 wounded.

3592 INLAND SECTOR

17 Aust Inf Bde. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ now established South of YAMIL 775778 and our troops have occupied positions East of ULEBILIM 783974 and MALABASAKUM 758952. Our 75 mm gun engaged targets West of ULEBILIM 771971 and South of ULUPU 775935.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols engaged enemy East of YAMIL at 797990 and 794986.

2 NGIB. Patrols cleared ABUBIT 663849 and a patrol operating South killed 4 Japs. Further patrols engaged 26 Japs at NILAH 689832 and cleared a position West of the SCREW river 642842. Natives report enemy in strength North of MIKAU 783883 and North of TORUKE 811901.

OWN AIROPS

3593 BOUGAINVILLE

2 Jul. 36 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed an MT park and enemy occupied huts MAIKI from 360357 to 360362. Five huts were destroyed and several damaged. 8 CORSAIRS bombed naval troops UMBO 354430. 32 CORSAIRS bombed enemy defences MIVO RIVER from 127338 to 130337 and from 135338 to 134335, results were unobserved. 11 CORSAIRS bombed a suspected MT park at CHABAI 289734.

3594 NEW BRITAIN

2 Jul. 8 CORSAIRS bombed strafed enemy positions 285639

3595 NEW GUINEA

2 Jul. 18 BEAUFORTS bombed enemy defensive positions W323004. Ground troops report excellent coverage. 8 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed enemy positions KUNAI RIDGE A771971 to 774977. Strike considered ineffective. 1 BEAUFORT bombed MIHAMA 0682 destroying 4 huts.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3596 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3320 ALO Bulletin No. 244.

3597 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3598 NEW BRITAIN

New Airforce Bombline effective from 4 Jul 45. NO bombing or strafing SOUTH of line from the mouth of the UMWAMIKI river 955588 West to AILO Island 278703 and NO attacks on watercraft SOUTH of EAST WEST lines seawards from the extremities of the above bombline.

3599 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
3 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN NO 261
(Compiled from infm to 040900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3600 SOUTHERN SECTOR

RAFFLES FORCE. Patrols report a large enemy concentration in TUGUI 186439 and they later moved towards KAGISAGA 191486. Another large party is located to the SOUTH of our base 186485 SE of KAGISAGA.

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. The two men reported missing have returned, one being wounded. Patrols report 80 to 100 enemy moving NORTH EAST of MUSAKAKA at 063375. Graves were found EAST of IERI plantation 068421.

57/30 Aust Inf Bn. The Bn has been relieved by 15 Bn of 29 Bde and has moved back to the vicinity of HARI No 1, new locations being - Bn HQ 017370, A Coy 013373, B Coy 013372, C Coy 016372, D Coy 183368.

15 Aust Inf Bn is now in the area WEST of the MIVO ford. Bn HQ 108338, A Coy 107337, B Coy 111346, C Coy 113343, D Coy 110338.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Situated to the east of the MOBIAI ford along the BUIN ROAD. Bn HQ 085346, A Coy 087344, B Coy 101337, C Coy 085344, D Coy 089341. A patrol from B Coy clashed with an enemy party NORTH of the coy area at 101339. 3 Japs were found dead.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Twelve Japs were engaged in the vicinity of C Coy on KILLENS Track 102368; continuous attacks by 50/60 Japs armed with LMGs and mortars have been repulsed.

Casualties in this area were nine enemy killed, five probably killed, 6 wounded; own one killed, five wounded.

AIB reports that the Japs have 2 Ls of C between TOBAGO 316450 and KEKEMONA 339591, one being through BIRIPARO 310459 - MOGULAI 305465 - SIRURU 300468 - ORORAI 292475 - PAUROKU 290503 - BOGISAGO 300529 - BAGUI 320539 - KORIO 315550 - BORULAI 320557 - ORAMAI 325575 - SURAKUM 328583 to KEKEMONA, and the other connecting at BOGISAGO runs through LAUKAUKO 313495 and KAITU 320480 to approximately 345439 on the main BUIN-KIETA road.

A branch road from KIETA road to BAGUI starts at 470486 and runs between ABIA and PIRIAS Rivers to ORIA 333532 thence to BAGUI. Enemy have now outposts at BOGISAGO, BAGUI, ORIA and SURAKUM.

The BUIN-KIETA road starting at TOBAGO passes through LURIAU 363431 to UMBO 381430 - TURITAI 418439 - LEURO 437445 - UGUBAKOGUI 465479 - BORULAI No 2 515523 - SEURO 529582, where there are large enemy concentrations each side of road on SOUTH bank of river.

The track from SEURO to ORAMAI follows LULUAI River along South bank crossing LULUAI River at 422541 and then directly to ORIA. The track from KEKEMONA to KOKASINA 348581 as shown on map joins SEURO-ORAMAI track at approximately 415545. Enemy posts on road at LURIAU, UMBO, TURITAI, LEURO, BURULAI and KOKASINA.

Natives of TOBAGO, LURIAU, UMBO, TURITAI state they know of no large scale troop movements from KIETA to BUIN since the TOROKINA operation; report frequent exchange of troops between SEURO and TOBAGO area.

Approximately 60 Japs with a mountain gun are in two big houses approximately 600 yards SE of BOGISAGO between 2 gardens astride the road. The target is being marked with flags and fluorescent panels for strike requested AM 4 Jul. A large Jap force seen on the march at 292325 on 1 Jul is thought to be moving to BOGISAGO.

Troops and partisans destroyed 13 big gardens, forced Japs to evacuate 6 outposts and killed 68 Japs between 10-28 Jun in the area from KUPEI 110835 and KAINO 130845 to the coast. A shrapnel mine near CHIAI 143859 killed an unknown number of Japs.

Scouts report a naval gun near ROROWANA under a high QUILA tree on a narrow ridge at 121980. At approximately 125993 there is a 75 mm gun. Jap posts at approximately 137964 and 138956; strafing of bush to the WEST of these posts suggested.

On 23 Jun partisans wiped out a Jap post at approximately 237905. From 21-26 Jun 26 Japs were killed in KIETA-AROPA area and now the enemy has evacuated all inland posts in the KIETA area. Many foot tracks are seen on KIETA-BUIN road going SOUTH.

Reliable natives estimate approximately 300 Japs camped in bush between CHINATOWN and bridge 243908 and big camp at 250880. At SIPA POINT approximately 243939 scouts report a small Jap post with a naval gun. Gun which was previously reported at PUANAPA POINT now at approximately 263899 WEST of main road and below prominent stone on hill side. Another Jap camp is at BOBORUTAI approximately 269857 just WEST of TOBEREI boundary.

3601 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Following an air strike a patrol encountered heavy fire from 694174. Casualties were 2 Japs killed before the patrol withdrew. One pl occupied TOKUA 636175 and found documents in the locality.

An AIB recce patrol killed 9 Japs at 720368. They report the Japs have cleared the undergrowth around the camp and have 3 LMGs and 1 knee mortar.

3602 NORTHERN SECTOR

HATSUA-RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. In D Coy area and enemy ambush occurred at 324714 and a patrol clash at 307713, casualties being 1 Jap killed 1 own killed.

BUOI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. During the night 2/3 Jul the enemy were active in D Coy area and C Coy reported signs of activity in their area. Mortars engaged COMDA ridge 292709 and 3 Japs were found dead at 293708.

AIB report that the enemy have recrossed the HAUA RIVER proceeding EAST. Our scouts are maintaining contact.

NEW BRITAIN

3603 OPEN BAY, 37/52 Aust Inf Bn. The command post of C Coy and D Coy less one pl has returned to WATU POINT. One Pl A Coy is at 289614 SE of COOPERS CLEARING and one pl NGIB is established on the coast at 275611.

An AIB party patrolling to TORIU reports that the old TORIU-TOMA road from 361784 to 440823 is completely overgrown. They crossed the road at 453874. A new road which is seldom used parallels the river and is about ¾ mile NORTH under the foothills. Bad country to the SW prevented the patrol from reaching TORIU from the NORTH so it proceeded towards PONDO.

NEW GUINEA

3603 COASTAL SECTOR

ANNANBERG. On 3 Jul a patrol departed for ROTABU 343507.

WEWAK, 19 Aust Inf Bde.

2/8 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops captured two positions on the BIG road SOUTH of SAURI at 297007 and 259009. Patrols from SAURI reached 291018.

2/4 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ has now been established NORTH of KOIGIN 337[illegible]5. An enemy position WEST of MT TAZAKI at 324004 has been captured. The count of enemy casualties is not complete. Our troops engaged a position at 322004 in the same vicinity on 3 Jul and the action is continuing.

2/11 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol occupied an enemy position NE of MT TAZAKI at 353012, the enemy having withdrawn SOUTH.

2/6 Aust Cav Cdo Regt. A fighting patrol is moving to destroy a reported Jap position at 094181 NW of KOANUMBU.

Total casualties not previously reported are eight enemy killed 3 PW.

3604 INLAND SECTOR

MAPRIK. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Amended location of Bn HQ is 775978, NORTH of ULEBILIM. Our troops have occupied positions 767951 SW of ULUPU, 783970 and a ridge 783966 SE of ULEBILIM.

2 NGIB. Our troops have occupied KUNJINGE mission 662832 and cleared KWIMBU (2) 737888, KALILU 737886, KONJAMBE 742886, WAIGAKUM (2) 718934. The MAPRIK road is now jeepable to the PAUCHI RIVER 740981.

Total casualties not previously reported are 10 enemy killed, 1 wounded, 5 PW: Own 2 wounded including 1 native and 2 native sentries killed.

OWN AIR OPS

3605 BOUGAINVILLE

3 Jul. 20 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentrations and suspected guns at UMBO 347428, results were unobserved. 20 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy concentrations MAKI 345355. Six huts were destroyed, five damaged and two trucks damaged. 16 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy force attacking own scouts RAFFLES FORCE in the vicinity OKEMO 236467. 23 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy defences AKU 170325 to 174324. Fires were started. 12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed defensive positions MIVO RIVER 122341 to 125341, results unobserved. 12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy dug in positions on WARNES HILL 695174 to 695176, results were unobserved.

AIB scouts report all fuel dumps near KORMAI 329414 have been destroyed, both houses at 324418 have been hit and no enemy are in the area. All houses in the garden area 320436 - 337417 have been destroyed and casualties caused. The remainder of the Japs are now in huts east of the gardens at approximately 368396. An attack has been requested on this target. The bombing of a camp from 316410 - 316415 was unsuccessful as all bombs fell WEST instead of EAST of the river. A repeat strike has been requested.

3606 NEW BRITAIN

3 Jul. 9 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas in the vicinity TOBERA airfield, fires with explosions resulted. 6 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas SW RABAUL, raid considered ineffective. 5 MITCHELLS bombed an MT park and stores NORTH RABAUL. A large explosion was caused. 8 MITCHELLS dropped 12 tons of bombs on bivouac areas in the vicinity of RABAUL township, results were unobserved.

3607 NEW GUINEA

3 Jul, 21 BEAUFORTS bombed enemy positions on a wooded feature W296007 and strafed BRANDI RIVER from B355983 to B396964. Ground forces report coverage of second flight of 9 BEAUFORTS to be very good. 11 BEAUFORTS bombed enemy dug in A806998 to A807994, strike cobsidered ineffective. Track on ridge from A802982 to A840995 well strafed

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3608 BOUGAINVILLE

Effective 030001K Jul, ref map BOUGAINVILLE STRAT series.

1. No attack SOUTH of line from track junction L2778 to track junction L2375.

2. No attack WEST of a line from the EAST side of the SILIBAI RIVER mouth R2123 thence along the EAST bank to the SILIBAI RIVER to bend R2836 thence NE to MT GULCHER R3651 thence NW to LAKE LOLORU R2361 to BILLY MITCHELL CRATER LAKE L8209 thence NORTH to NUMA NUMA RIVER junction L7724 thence along NUMA NUMA RIVER to the coast at L7931.

3. No attack on watercraft SOUTH of a line WEST from track junction L2375 and NORTH of a line WEST from SILIBAI RIVER mouth R2123.

3609 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No 94.

3610 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No 260.

3611 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No 236.

OTHER FRONTS
(Infm to 020900I)

BORNEO

3612 BALIKPAPAN - 7 AUST DIV

Assualt waves landed successfully from 600594 to 582590 at 010855I, right 21 Aust Inf Bde, left 18 Aust Inf Bde.

Initial objectives were the area 604598, the pumping station 587597, road junction 580597. Area 576590 was captured by 011015I against light opposition. A progress report to 011500I indicated further advances.

21 Aust Inf Bde. 2/[illegible] Aust Inf Bn. Fwd Tps were located 623596 and preparing for their move to SEPINGGANG.

2/27 Aust Inf Bn. Coys are located in the area 607600 and 607595.

2/16 Aust Inf Bn. Forward coys are located 602606, 594607 and MALANG 602613.

2/7 Aust Cav Cdo Regt. A patrol crossed the KLANDASAN RIVER and were held up by MG fire at 620605.

18 Aust Inf Bde. 2/10 Aust Inf Bn. Troops captured a spur 577607 and are patrolling NORTH.

2/9 Aust Inf Bn is holding PARKERS CREEK NORTH from 577590.

25 Aust Inf Bde. Bde HQ landed and the remainder of the brigade is afloat.

HQ 7 Aust Div is located 596596 and the Div commander assumed command ashore at 011900I.

Enemy casualties are not known and own casualties are reported as light.

Enemy opposition has increased slightly.

NORTH BORNEO - 9 AUST DIV

3613 BRUNEI WEST - 20 Aust Inf Bde.

2/17 Aust Inf Bn. One coy is now at BADAS 9003. No change is reported in the remainder of the bn.

3614 LABUAN EAST - 24 Aust Inf Bde.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol continued NORTH along the railway to 401002 and report NMS. Rocket craft engaged an enemy position 3990.

Rolling stock has been captured at BEAUFORT.

Casualties in NW BORNEO to 292400I. Enemy 794 killed, 51 estimated additional dead, 89 PW. Own 55 killed 134 wounded 1 missing.

3615 TARAKAN - 26 Aust Inf Bde.

SITNOR.

Lt-Col
GS

G (Air)
4 Jul 45.

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No 239.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN NO. 262
(Compiled from infm to 050900K)

SITUATION

3616 CHOISEUL ISLAND

Our AIB party estimates after an inspection of recently occupied houses at TEREKUKARE, SIPASAI and KONDAKANIMBOKO that the Jap force which evacuated was in the vicinity of 100.

BOUGAINVILLE

3617. SOUTHERN SECTOR

RAFFLES FORCE. 2 Japs were killed at MONOREI.

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. One patrol made contact South of the BUIN road at 103334 and another patrol on KILLENS track was heavily engaged at 104357 and withdrew. Hostile shelling of A, C, D Coy areas in the vicinity of SHISHIGATERO took place during the day. Casualties in the Bn area were 7 enemy killed own 2 wounded.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols clashed North and South of the BUIN road at 085330, 093342, 083341, 098327. Mortars later engaged positions 093342 and 083341. B Coy dispersed a small party of enemy on the BUIN road. Casualties in the Bn area were 3 enemy killed 8 found dead, 2 wounded.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Results of the attacks on our Coy position of KILLENS track 102368 are now 20 enemy killed with an additional 2 own wounded. Further attacks on D Coy in this area by Japs and armed natives have been repulsed. The enemy are now preparing defences on KILLENS track 100392 South of MUSARAKA and on LAWNES track 500 yds to the West.

24 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol from C Coy engaged an enemy force dug in position at 105403 at MUSARAKA resulting in 5 enemy killed and 5 wounded, they then broke contact.

AIB reports a large Jap force left PIANO 196357 AM 2 Jul and reached ONITARO 217425, 2 Jul, and moved toward our camp which had to move to a new location after our scouts had been fired on and chased.

The Japs have an OP on MT BOEDER and a small force half way along the East side at approx 381387, and an unknown number of enemy reported in 4 large houses midway between SAMEI River and a garden at 380379.

A patrol further North raided the gardens at ISINA 308714 on 22 Jul and killed 5 Japs and on 25 Jun they attacked the Jap outpost TEKEKI at 348804 who withdrew to AROPA after suffering some casualties. On 26 Jun partisans destroyed houses and gardens and found 10 new graves in the camp and they report many tracks seen on the KIETA - BUIN road indicating northward movement.

3618 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol contact was made North of the NUMA NUMA trail at 728284 and 1 Jap was killed. C Coy has relieved D Coy on WEARNES HILL 694169.

AIB captured 2 Japs near 595675, East of TINPUTZ Harbour.

3619 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol clash occurred

In SIAR plantation following an air strike in this area. Small enemy parties engaged a pl position South of the track at 331717 and another position 307693. Casualties were 1 enemy killed, own 2 killed, 1 wounded.

BUOI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Small enemy parties were located NE of the plantation at 291713.

NEW BRITAIN

3620 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. A Coy is now established at 680511, MARUPA, and D Coy 659518, MARUMBA area.

3621 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. One pl B Coy moved from 298546 on the SAI river to 297580 on the POTAITI river. A tp 2/14 Aust Fd Regt returned to WATU point.

1 NGIB. A patrol of one pl C Coy moved from 276613, SE of COOPERS CLEARING to the South bank of the MATALAILI River 002846 and fired on 7 enemy in bunkers on the North bank of the river; the fire was not returned. On their return they were ambushed by approx 1 section of Japs North of COOPERS CLEARING. Our casualties were 2 natives killed, 1 wounded and 1 European wounded. The pl then withdrew to MAVELO plantation.

The AIB party which moved towards PONDO reports the patrol crossed the SAMBEI River and reached the beach at 250911, thence along beach road to PONDO; contacted natives and brought 1 out with them. The native reports 5 Jap coastwatchers on a knoll behind PABIGOM 257869, without radio - 2 at 206957 - 4 in a cave at 215994 - 2 at river mouth 211996 - 4 at creek mouth 215005. Approx 20 Japs are in 5 houses at 235988 on new BAINING road following the ridge from 224984 to the old road at about 254994 which is mined between the Jap camp and plantation. 4 Japs at UNUNGA 275013. No defences on plantation and no coast defence gun on point. All rails and machinery were moved to RABAUL after Lt. Archer's patrol in Jul 1944.

Each night a Jap assault boat with outboard leaves TORIU for PONDO and returns with native food. A little rice is held by the troops in the area and what is, is being kept for emergency and ammunition is short. Neither river at PONDO is suitable for barges.

NEW GUINEA

3622 COASTAL SECTOR

NEWAK. 19 Aust Inf Bn. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. An additional 9 Japs have been found dead as a result of the previous action on the BIG road 2400. A patrol from SAURI contacted a patrol from the SEIBURANGU area on the BIG road at 293016.

2/4 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol forced the enemy to withdraw from a position 322004 to 318002 West of MT TAZAKI. Other patrols operating in the MT TAZAKI area 3300, 3400 without making contact.

2/3 Aust MG Bn. The enemy were active during the night 3/4 Jul in the BRANDI area but no casualties resulted.

16 Aust Inf Bde. 2/6 Aust Cav Cdo Regt. 2/7 Aust Cdo Sqn has relieved 2/10 Cdo Sqn in the BOIKEN area.

Total casualties not previously reported are 19 enemy killed, own 1 killed 1 missing believed killed and 6 wounded.

3623 INLAND SECTOR

17 Aust Inf Bde. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol killed 4 of 20 Japs at 785968 on theYOIBI river. Our troops occupied vacated positions East of UNAPE at 771971 and captured positions West of ULUPU at 764953.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. A native patrol reports at least 150 Japs in the area BOINUM 8709, West of BOINIP 8605, NW HAMLET 8107.

2 NGIB. After stiff opposition our troops captured NILAH 689832 and KWANDANING 730935, no casualties reported. A patrol reports the villages at 7488 East of KWIMBU clear of enemy.

Total casualties not previously reported are 55 Japs killed own 5 natives wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3624 BOUGAINVILLE

4 Jul. 20 CORSAIRS bombed a concentration of 100 Japs KIKIBATSIAGO 341405 and devastated huts in the area. Strafed and damaged 20 cars and strafed two large gps Japs working in the gardens killing ten. 12 CORSAIRS in support 3 Aust Div bombed and strafed the area MIVO ford 125339 - 127341, One aircraft crashed on returning.to base. 12 CORSAIRS supported fwd troops bombed and strafed suspected enemy concentrations SIAR 328722 results were unobserved.

3625 NEW BRITAIN

4 Jul. 6 MITCHELLS bombed suspected tunnel entrances and bivouac areas in the vicinity RABAUL. 7 MITCHELLS bombed MT park at VUNAKANAU. Target was indicated by CORSAIR. Good coverage is reported. 9 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac area KABAGADA, results were unobserved.

3626 NEW GUINEA

4 Jul. 25 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed ULUPU villages A775954 to A774962 with good coverage.

PHOTO COVERAGES

NEW GUINEA

3627 Title YOGEI TRING Run 8 Sqn 6 Sqn (Norcom)

Mission MDG 5 Serials 1 - 37 Date 20 Jun 45

RF 1;20000 Maps WEWAK - AMBUNTI STRAT 4 miles to 1"

Co-ords B4588, 5088, 4528, 4828.

Type of Photos K17 Vertical Quality good small scale photos.

3628 Title YOGEI - TRING Run 9 Sqn 6 Sqn (Norcom)

Mission MDG 5 Serials 1 - 35 Date 20 Jun 45

RF 1:20000 Maps WEWAK - AMBUNTI STRAT 4 miles to 1"

Co-ords B4383, 4783, 4127, 4527

Type of Photos K 17 Vertical Quality good, small scale photos.

3629 Title WEWAK - PAPARAM Sqn 6 Sqn (Norcom)

Mission MDG 3 Serials Run 1 188 - 215 Date 18 Jun45
Run 2 216 - 241 Run 3 242 - 267
Run 4 268 - 292 Run 5 293 - 318
Run 6 319 - 345 Run 7 159 - 187

RF 1:12000 Maps WEWAK WEST 1" Series

Co-ords Area covered by runs - 176916, 305104, 380057, 390072, 411060, 285864, 176864 (Note the runs continue for approx 1½ miles onto TRING WEST 1" Prov)

Type of Photos K17 V Quality Good clear verticals with lateral overlap from 30% - 60%.

3630 Title MAPRIK WEST - MAPRIK WEST Sqn 6 Sqn (Norcom)

Mission V 23 Serials 1 - 35 Date 27 Jun 45

RF 1:20000 Maps MAPRIK WEST - MAPRIK EAST 1" Prov

Co-ords from MAPRIK WEST 1" Prov. 645020, 643978 to approx MAPRIK EAST 175002, 173959.

Type of Photos K17 Quality Good small scale photos.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3631 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

3632 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3633 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260

3634 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS
(Infm to C218301)

BORNEO

3635 BALIKPAPAN - 7 AUST DIV

21 Aust Inf Bde. 2/14 Aust Inf Bn. Forward troops have reached 660606 with patrol to 643608.

2/16 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols report 591613 clear of enemy. The Bn is consolidating area 602613 to 601605, with standing patrols at 605607 and 608610.

2/3 Aust Cdo Sqn. Patrols are active to 625605.

2/5 Aust Cdo Sqn. The Sqn is in defensive position at 620607.

18 Aust Inf Bde. 2/10 Aust Inf Bn. The Bn reports 300 counted enemy dead in the area 575603. A patrol reached SEPOELAN 562599 against light opposition. A counter attack on a position at 577610 was repulsed. The reservoir at 579612 is clear.

2/12 Aust Inf Bn. The attack on an enemy position at 581608 is not yet completed. SEPINGGAN airstrip has been captured and is 5200 ft with a possible extension of 600 ft. The strip has many craters.

Casualties own troops to 020600I were 22 killed 74 wounded.

3636 BRUNEI WEST

20 Aust Inf Bde. Patrolling continues in the BRUNEI, LIMBANG, SERIA, MIRI areas.

3637 LABUAN EAST

24 Aust Inf Bde. 2/32 Aust Inf Bn. One Coy in the BEAUFORT area advanced East along the railway and contacted enemy 410893.

Casualties in NW BORNEO were 6 enemy killed, 4 PW.

3638 T'RAKAN

26 Aust Inf Bde. Patrolling continues. The construction of an oil jetty has been completed. Casualties are 19 enemy killed 4 estimated additional dead, 31 PW, own troops 1 wounded.

H W Watmaj
for Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
5 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239

WD

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 263
(Compiled from infm to 060900K)

GENERAL

3639 JAPANESE SUICIDE AIR ATTACKS

Although Japanese propaganda, for both home and Allied consumption, has long been at pains to stress the significance of suicide air attacks, it is only recently that such attacks have given rise to any concern.

Deliberate crash-dive attacks were first made against American ships in the great naval battle that took place off the PHILIPPINES last October, when repeated attacks, courageously pressed home, resulted in the sinking of an escort carrier and a destroyer, besides doing extensive damage to other ships. Torpedo bombers, dive bombers, and fighter bombers took part in attacks, which in contrast to previous unpremeditated attempts by Japanese pilots to crash their badly damaged aircraft on to American ships, appeared to have been deliberately planned.

Although in comparison with other forms of Japanese air tactics, suicide attacks have so far been limited in number, and have only rarely caused severe damage, the potential menace of such attacks is none the less a very real one. It is true that most aircraft are shot down but a philosophy of "death dives" would seem to be entirely in harmony with Japanese military psychology, and the enemy will doubtless have little difficulty in finding men who are willing to sacrifice their lives in carrying out such attacks. The enemy's situation is now growing desperate; orthodox air tactics have proved incapable of doing more than harass the steady advance of the Allies, and it is not improbable that as the war is brought closer to the Japanese mainland, the number of suicide attacks will increase.

(Extract from Current Reports from Overseas No. 87)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3640 SOUTHERN SECTOR

RAFFLES FORCE. An estimated 200 Japs were reported active in the area of their advance base on the upper MIVO river 186485 and they have moved the base West of the WAPIAI river.

KATSUWA. 24 Aust Inf Bn. The casualties from the patrol action which took place 4 Jul in the vicinity of MUSARAKA are now 10 enemy killed. During 5 Jul the enemy were active at KATSUWA 097407 and a clash occurred on the COMMANDO road West of the TOHODO river 089414.

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged an enemy party North of SHISHIGATERO at 110345 and our casualties were 3 wounded. Following artillery concentrations a patrol occupied an enemy position on KILLENS track 103357. Bn HQ at SHISHIGATERO received shelling from enemy 75 mm and 150 mm guns.

42 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol found an enemy position vacant on a track South of the BUIN road at 086328. This position was large enough to accommodate approx 100 and it is considered to have been vacated as late as the morning of 5 Jul. A later patrol in the same area encountered 12 Japs and 3 were killed. Other patrols made contact to the SW at 079324 and on the MIVO river at 110313, casualties being 1 enemy killed.

47 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy east of KILLENS track was attacked by 20/30 Japs between 050530L and 050745L and at 050945L an attack by 70/100 Japs was repulsed. Enemy casualties are unknown own 1 wounded.

Our AIB party was forced to abandon its camp at KUTURU to avoid encirclement. They are now established in a temporary camp at BORORAI 237499 with native troops still at the old camp.

Scouts report the enemy are making for POROBI at approx 218438 and POMOITU 225437. The track from POMOITU follows a ridge to MASIOGU 226489 from where there is a track to KOOMBAROONA 211530 well known to the Japs.

The party reports a large Jap force with 3 MGs covering the ridge 500 yds from the bombing target of 3 Jul. Air attack has been requested.

To the North AIB reports that natives from AMAPA 443636 saw a corvette bombard TOIMONAPU approx 25 May and that Jap installations at KIRISAN 517625 and at TAKI 497641 were covered.

The Japs are reported to have posts at NANTOKINA 435590, MAITANA 463595, ANGARA 477307 and on a hill at 490669 where there is a 75 mm gun.

Our OP at POMA reports the Japs evacuated their post at 136846 on 30 Jun. Partisans burnt the houses and destroyed the gardens there on 2 Jul.

3641 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A PIB patrol located 40/50 Japs dug in at 694182 forward of WEARNES HILL. Our arty later engaged the position. 13 pl is established at WEARNES HILL 691169 and 16 pl at PEA HILL 686124.

AIB report that shells from the recent naval bombardment of KEVISIA fell 50 yds SW of the party camp.

3642 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. On 5 Jul a Jeep train was ambushed at 308696, our casualties being 1 wounded. A jeep was damaged by an improvised mine. South of the road at 326715, two Japs were seen setting a booby trap. Patrols made contact North of B Coy at 317701 and North of A Coy at 313718. Casualties were 3 enemy killed. Our mortars engaged a Jap position NE A Coy at 318718.

BUOI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol to COMMO ridge reports no movement seen, and a patrol was engaged by Japs NE of the plantation near D Coy, casualties being 1 enemy wounded, 1 own killed. At 041815L 3 small boats each containing 5 personnel moved along the West coast of BOUGAINVILLE to BUKA at 051400 a small boat containing 8 personnel crossed the passage from BUKA to BONIS. At 051800L a sloop ex TOROKINA arrived at SAPOSA ISLAND.

16 tp 2/4 Armd Regt is located SORAKEN 238369.

During the night 4/5 Jul a Jap was heard crossing in the vicinity of 8 Aust Inf Bn on thetrack from 300679 to 304694 known as GYMPIE track.

AIB party reports there are no Japs west of the RAMAZON river. A large force has crossed the river and are proceeding slowly to the East, with our scouts maintaining contact.

NEW BRITAIN

3643 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. The pl of B Coy at the POTAITI river 297580 returned to WATU point after being relieved by one pl D Coy. One pl A Coy on the coast at 265594 has rejoined A Coy at the mouth of the SAI river after being relieved by a pl of D Coy.

NEW GUINEA

3644 COASTAL SECTOR

ANNANBERG. At 041500K the patrol from ROTABU returned and report no movement seen.

WEWAK. 19 Aust Inf Bde. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops cleared a small pocket of enemy from 293007 on the SAURI track and patrolled to the West as far as 287008 without contact. Bn HQ is now established West of the WIRUI Mission track at 303004.

2/4 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols have found a vacated position containing abandoned rifles and packs in the MT SHIBURANGU 313002 and occupied an enemy position at 316002.

2/11 Aust Inf Bn. One Coy to the South of BORAM plantation has been relieved by C Coy 30 Aust Inf Bn.

2/10 Aust Cdo Sqn is concentrating at KARAWOP.

Total casualties in this sector not previously reported are 3 Japs killed own 1 wounded.

3645 INLAND SECTOR

MAPRIK. 17 Aust Inf Bde. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops engaged 20/30 Japs North of ULUPU 773965 and strong positions at ULUPU 774963, resulting in 15 Japs being killed. Patrols cleared positions on the YOIBI river at 287968 and 768953.

2 NGIB. A patrol reports 35 Japs at 771889 NW DOINYINGI and natives report Japs in strength DUREBIT 745786, LORUKO 708869 and TAIGERHI (1) and (2) 7887.

Total casualties not previously reported in this sector are 24 Japs killed own 5 wounded.

Natives have reported to AIB that after a bombing attack on AVATIP 5642 on 26 Jun 10 Japs moved to NAVAKIB 3635.

20 Japs remain at YENJANGAI 5343 and some have gone to SENGO 6057. 8 Japs are still at YAMBON 3526.

In the KOROGO area at approx 8247 on a small lake is a Jap rest camp with a large troop concentration and an HQ. A high ranking officer lives in this area.

Another high ranking Officer is at WEREMAN 7352 with a strong force.

Both of the above forces supply reinforcements to the combat area.

OWN AIROPS

3646 BOUGAINVILLE

5 Jul. 20 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy concentrations

MAIKA 373347 results unobserved. (6 . Div and 6 . . Fd Arty Regt reported to be located at MAIKA). 24 CORSAIRS bombed enemy defences astride BUIN Road in the vicinity of AKU 174324 - 178523. 12 CORSAIRS bombed suspected MT park CHABAI 251738, fires started and a column of smoke to 200 ft.

3647 NEW IRELAND

5 Jul. 6 MITCHELLS bombed a RADAR station at CAPE ST GEORGE, good coverage and RADAR possibly damaged.

3648 NEW BRITAIN

5 Jul. 9 MITCHELLS bombed MT park and stores area NE RABAUL. 6 MITCHELLS bombed Jap bivouac area KABAGADA, all bombs in the area.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3649 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3650 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3651 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3652 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS
(infm to 050105L)

BORNEO

3653 BALIKPAPAN - 7 AUST DIV

21 Aust Inf Bde, 2/14 Aust Inf Bn. The MANGGAR airstrip was captured at 041230I without opposition except for hostile shelling. The MANGGAR - KETJIL bridge was destroyed and the MANGGAR-BESAR bridge partially destroyed.

2/7 Aust Cav Cdo Regt is holding the area NW SEPINGGANG strip 642612, 637611, 633612, 631631 with patrols active to the North. Patrols report no movement seen.

25 Aust Inf Bde. 2/31 Aust Inf Bn is holding the area 586624, 582636, 578622 East of PANDANSARI without contact.

2/33 Aust Inf Bn is in the area 599619, 595623, 591618 NE PANDANSARI with forward Coys at 590633, 588633 without contact.

18 Aust Inf Bde. Divisional reserve is remaining in its present area, vicinity KLANDASAN

2/9 Aust Inf Bn. concentrated at 569593.

2/10 Aust Inf Bn. concentrated at 568612.

2/12 Aust Inf Bn. concentrated at 5761.

Casualties to 030800I, 446 enemy killed 26 estimated additional dead 3 PW, own 36 killed, 123 wounded.

Mine sweeping of BALIKPAPAN harbour commenced 041330I.

3654 BRUNEI WEST - 9 AUST DIV

20 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols are mopping up in the LIMBANG area.

Other sectors no change.

3655 LABUAN EAST

24 Aust Inf Bde. The enemy have been forced from 415896 by our artillery and mortar fire and one Coy of 2/32 Aust Inf Bn has advanced to 416896.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn is established at 367904. There are an estimated 20 enemy still on LABUAN ISLAND.

Casualties in NW BORNEO are 28 killed 2 PW, own 2 killed, 1 wounded.

3656 TARAKAN

26 Aust Inf Bde. Patrolling continues. Casualties enemy 3 killed 1 estimated dead 13 PW. Own Nil.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
6 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239

W3

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 264
(Compiled from infm to 070900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3657 SOUTHERN SECTOR

RAFFLES FORCE. An advance base has been established East of AKERI in vicinity MIBO RIVER at 177457.

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol from A Coy engaged 30/40 Japs 088360 and a further 60/70 one hundred yards North. An armoured patrol along KILLENS track to contact D Coy 47 Aust Inf Bn contacted dispersed enemy parties at 104157 and 102362. There were minor clashes in D Coy area and the Japs were active with grenades in B and C Coy areas. Hostile shelling continued throughout the day. Enemy casualties 10 killed, 8 wounded, own 6 wounded.

47 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy patrol contacted a Jap ambush at 102366.

3658 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. The enemy position previously located at 694174 has been vacated.

3659 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacted enemy on crest COMMO RIDGE at 291705 and 295704 killing 4. Bn HQ is now located at 304693.

AIB reports section of native troops attacked camp at 653561 4 Jul. No fire was returned and when natives called to occupants they fled. Documents indicate party was NEI POWs attempting to make contact. TINPUTZ plantation was reported clear of Japs 3 Jul

NEW BRITAIN

3660 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy relieved B Coy at 251567 and B Coy has returned to WATU POINT. Pl A Coy has rejoined Coy at 251567.

1 NGIB. Further interrogation reveals that in the patrol contact MATALAILI RIVER - para 3621 refers - 1 enemy was killed and 6 wounded in the bunker positions on North bank of the river.

NEW GUINEA

3661 MADANG

SAIDOR - 2 Japs surrendered to ANGAU natives and have now been moved to MADANG.

3662 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol has linked up with the 2/4 Aust Inf Bn outpost at 316002.

2/6 Aust Commando Sqn. Patrols were active and 2 Japs were killed at 134164.

2/7 and 2/10 Aust Commando Sqns are now located 123224 and 090240 respectively.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Supported by BEAUFORTS our troops captured ULUPU 773953 and 774959 killing 12 Japs. Our patrols also cleared some positions to the North.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy positions at 804009 and 791979 were engaged by our troops and six Japs killed.

2 NGIB. KWAMBIKUM has been captured and positions at 772894 and 771889 cleared.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 36 killed 1 PW, own 3 killed 4 wounded.

AIB reports the following villages occupied:- KANDIGAI, YARANGAI 7243, SUIMBUM 7347, NONGRUMERI 6851, KIAP CHEBANDEI 6446, JAPANAUT, 5949, CHAMBRI. Double canoes with platform on top travelling in daylight from YAMBON 3526 to MARUI 6653 and carrying food are given as strafing targets. Jap guards at PAGWI 6752 are watching the end of MAPRIK ROAD. 12 more are on opposite bank of the SEPIK at 6751 and have 2 HMGs covering PAGWI.

OWN AIROPS

3663 BOUGAINVILLE

6 Jul. 20 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed Jap hut concentration PIANO 184356. Good coverage is reported. 12 CORSAIRS bombed reported gun in the vicinity BUIN road near AKU 169719 results unobserved. 12 CORSAIRS supporting 15 Aust Inf Bn bombed and strafed dump and HQ area 123332.

BOUGAINVILLE air support. RNZAF, flew a total of 2295 sorties of which 1260 were on close support missions. AIB scouts and PW interrogation have confirmed that results of the bombing, particularly in the BUIN area has been most satisfactory with considerable amount of casualties and damage to installations.

Tac R Squadron flew 177 sorties confined mainly to 3 Aust Div and 11 Aust Inf Bde areas.

3664 NEW GUINEA

6 Jul. 11 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed suspected Jap General's hideout as indicated by Tac R aircraft at A868957 and W897965. Majority of bombs on target. 17 BEAUFORTS supporting 2/5 Aust Inf Bn, bombed enemy positions A779962. Target area well covered and strafed by 11 BEAUFORTS. Remaining 6 BEAUFORTS strafed along the BRAND river from B355983 to B396965.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3665 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3666 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3667 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3668 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS
(infm to 051530I)

BORNEO

3669 BALIKPAPAN. 7 AUST DIV.

25 Aust Inf Bde. 2/25 Aust Inf Bn. Forward Coy moving North from 580641 to seal off peninsular.

2/31 Aust Inf Bn. Now located at 5863 with forward Coy at 584640.

2/33 Aust Inf Bn. Coys at 595647, 595640 and 598641.

Inter bde boundary all incl 25 Aust Inf Bde 606643, 623653, 652661, 639665 and 646672.

18 Aust Inf Bde. 2/9 Aust Inf Bn supported by navy and air landed without opposition at CAPE PENADJAM.

3670 TARAKAN. 9 AUST DIV.

26 Aust Inf Bde. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol engaged small enemy party at 497921.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contact at 445894.

2/10 Aust Commando Sqn. Enemy carrying white flags and leaflets surrendered in the MT TANGKOL area.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
7 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239

WAR DIARY

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN NO 265
(Compiled from infm to 080900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3671. SOUTHERN SECTOR

RAFFLES FORCE. The force has now returned to its advanced base as reported in ALO Bulletin No 263 para 3640 and occupied a position on the WEST bank of the upper MIVO RIVER at 186485.

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. Report numerous enemy vacated defensive positions in the area bounded by IERI 069420, MATALASA 071420 and KUHINU 082416.

15 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy established in the vicinity of SHISUIGATE at 110337 repulsed an enemy attack during the daylight hours 6 Jul but their positions were further harassed during the night 6/7 Jul. An agressive patrol from A Coy encountered approximately 40 Japs moving WEST at 108360 EAST of KILLENS track and during this engagement 7 enemy were killed and our own casualties one killed. Enemy positions WEST of the KOBIAI river 087360 are reported to be vacated.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol from A Coy departed with the object of contacting D Coy located in the vicinity of KILLENS TRACK 103365 successfully engaged and destroyed an enemy gun position at 098368. 11 dead Japs were found in the Coy area and one PW taken. Our arty continued to engage and harass enemy positions West of MIVO river at 106368 and 102371.

AIB, reports partisan activity continues and KUPEI 212830, KAINO 178839 and MONKUTURO 223852 have now been occupied. The enemy has retreated to the coast and fighting is now in progress between ARAWA 168937 and KIETA. Natives report Japs are actively patrolling areas in vicinity DAPETUN.

3672. CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPALA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. During a patrol clash NW WEARNES HILL 694177 the enemy were compelled to withdraw. WEARNES HILL is now reported clear and the track from TOKUA to 646195 is clear of the enemy.

3673. NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops patrolling COMMO RIDGE engaged a strong enemy position at 294709. Approximately one mile SSE of PORO PORO our jeep train was ambushed.

27 Aust Inf Bn. Coy dispositions, B Coy established 307713, D Coy 321703 with a platoon located at 309705. Minor patrol skirmishes are reported in the coy's area.

Total casualties, enemy 3 killed 2 wounded, own 1 killed 2 wounded 1 missing.

3674. SEA

HMAS DIAMANTINA bombarded enemy positions SOHANA ISLAND.

NEW BRITAIN

3675. OPEN BAY. 37/52 Aust Inf Bn. C Coy relieved A Coy at 251567 and A Coy has returned to WATU POINT. A section outpost stationed near the mouth of POTAITI RIVER was fired on by 10 Japs. Nil casualties are reported.

NEW GUINEA

3676. WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 19 Aust Inf Bde report the relief of 2/4 Aust Inf Bn by 30 Aust Inf Bn is now completed. Bn HQ disposition 2/4 Aust Inf Bn - W318070, 30 Aust Inf Bn - W335023. A small raiding party of Japs attacked our positions at W321002. Five Japs were killed.

Approximately 2 miles SSW SAURI village RPC patrols report Jap active and considerable movement ... observed passing through 276101 towards HAMBRAUNI B286968, situated one mile WEST BANAHITAM villages.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 10 killed, own two killed three wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols report Japs occupy positions along the track WEST of KULAURU mission at A7996 A7896 and A7796.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Report approximately 20 Japs V804009.

2 NGIB. Aggressive patrolling activity continues, and reports advise approximately 80 Japs stationed at DUNEBIT A755825.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 13 killed, own one killed one wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3677. BOUGAINVILLE

7 Jul. 42 fighter bombers enthusiastically attacked 17 Army HQ. Bombs were dropped accurately with devastating results NW of MAIKA 357358 to 354356. Personnel were killed, approximately 20/30 huts destroyed, one staff car wrecked, and shelters uprooted. Although guard huts are still intact area and enemy party thoroughly strafed.

3678. NEW IRELAND

7 Jul. 15 MITCHELLS bombed an AA position NW KAVIENG strip, bombs straddled the target. 9 MITCHELLS bombed an AA position WEST PANAPAI strip, the area was well covered.

3679. NEW GUINEA

7 Jul. 9 BEAUFORTS bombed enemy pillboxes on timbered feature V804009 and strafed track from A802982 to A840995. Ground forces report strike ineffective as bombs fell 200 to 400 yards WEST of target due to drift of smoke indicator. 18 BEAUFORTS carried out a successful strike during the afternoon when they bombed and strafed the Jap occupied village at 755825 (DUNEBIT). Reports indicate all bombs fell in the village and 28 huts were destroyed. As one bomb exploded a large bright flash resulted suggesting possible ammunition dump.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3680. BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No 261.

3681. NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No 94.

3682. NEW BRITAIN - see para 3596 ALO Bulletin No 260.

3683. NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No 236.

H W Watt Maj

for Lt-Col
GS

G (Air)
8 Jul 45.

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No 239.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 236
(Compiled from infm to 090900K)

GENERAL

3684 USE OF TBF's TO GAP WIRE AND MINEFIELDS

Eighteen Navy TBF aircraft, each carrying four 350 lb depth bombs Mark 47 fuzed with instantaneous Mark 219 fuzes, attacked a beach protected by barbed wire and anti-tank mines. The barbed wire consisted of two 20 ft bands of double apron, approximately 150 ft apart. Anti-tank minefields 78 ft by 104 ft had been laid in a staggered pattern both between the bands of barbed wire and on the land side of the second band.

The bombers attacked successively, diving from 2,500 ft to 1,500 ft, where they released their bombs. Twelve of the bombs falling in the area cut a lane of minimum width of 50 ft across the wire and exploded 83 per cent of the mines in the corresponding lane across the minefields. The wire was demolished sufficiently for troops to advance without difficulty through the obstacles. A tank following the line of depth-bomb craters crossed the minefields without exploding any of the remaining mines.

This method offers promise, but requires adequate training of air personnel and close co-ordination with ground and surface elements.

(Extract from OPDIB Bulletin, Vol IV, No. 2)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3685 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. Following an air strike on ASTILLS CROSSING our patrol reports enemy positions at 104402 vacated.

15 Aust Inf Bn. Continuous attacks throughout the morning on D Coy were repulsed. A patrol contacted D Coy 47 Aust Inf Bn and there were numerous contacts in the area forward of the MIVO RIVER. Casualties enemy 7 killed, own 1 killed 4 wounded.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacted 20 Japs on KILLENS track in vicinity 102365, three Japs were killed and four graves found.

RAFFLES FORCE. An advance post has now been established at 177487 and a strong enemy position has been located at 106400.

3686 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. One enemy was killed in a patrol clash at 695180.

3687 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols and mortars harassed a Jap position on COMMO RIDGE.

Japs are reported to be using explosive and incendiary bullets in this area.

NEW GUINEA

3688 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/11 Aust Inf Bn. HQ now located at 358047.

Total casualties not previously reported are 6 enemy killed 3 PW, own 1 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols probed strong enemy position at ULUM 778897 killing 3 Japs.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Minor patrol contacts.

2 NGIB. Patrol reports enemy in strength at NARAMUKO 755915.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 11 killed, 3 PW.

OWN AIROPS

3689 BOUGAINVILLE

8 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed suspected MT park MAIKA area 363363 fire started. 19 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentrations LUIRAU 349430 damaging 5 huts and killing Jap personnel. 12 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentrations MUGUAI 364373, 7 huts were destroyed. 12 CORSAIRS bombed BUIN ROAD 186323 to 190322 with unobserved results. 24 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed defensive positions ASTILLS CROSSING 104402. Ground troops report position vacated following air strike. 8 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed food dump CHABA 255745 with unobserved results.

3690 NEW BRITAIN

9 MITCHELLS bombed hut area SULPHUR CREEK. Large explosion with smoke to 3000 ft. 6 MITCHELLS bombed hut area WEST of RAKATOP. Good coverage but damage unobserved.

3691 NEW GUINEA

9 BEAUFORTS bombed Jap occupied knoll V804009 approx 1½ miles NE YAMIL, fair coverage. 18 BEAUFORTS bombed heavily wooded feature in the vicinity KULAURU MISSION A774962 with excellent coverage, 11 huts were destroyed.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3692 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3693 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3694 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3596 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3695 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS
(infm to 072130I)

BORNEO

3696 BALIKPAPAN

2/14 Aust Inf Bn. Forward coy advance EAST from 741669 was repulsed by the enemy. Counter attack on coy 737679 held.

2/15 Aust Inf Bn patrolling to 633642 to located flank of enemy on feature 632633.

2/27 Aust Inf Bn clearing area NORTH of BATAKAN BESAR to 659653.

2/25 Aust Inf Bn. Forward coys 580655.

2/31 Aust Inf Bn located at 5864 5863.

2/33 Aust Inf Bn located at 5964 6064 with patrols in contact at 609652.

NEI Bn. One coy occupied SOEMBER TAGHAH 565671.

2/9 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols to SESOEMPOE RIVER. Standing patrols at 455658 to cut enemy escape route on RIKO RIVER. Patrol to village 456660 reports no movement seen. Natives report 1500 enemy 415633.

Total casualties BALIKPAPAN enemy to 062400I 665 killed, 132 estimated additional dead, 17 PW own troops to 052400I 77 killed 245 wounded.

3697 BRUNEI LABUAN

Total casualties enemy to 062400I 931 killed 87 estimated additional dead 94 PW own troops to 070600I 78 killed 182 wounded one missing.

3698 TARAKAN

Patrolling continues.

Total enemy casualties to 062400I 1362 killed 232 estimated additional dead 169 PW own troops to 070600I 220 killed 644 wounded 12 missing.

A S Kinnard
Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
9 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239.

WD

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN NO. 267
(Compiled from infm to 1C5[illegible]0K)

GENERAL

3699 JAPANESE WINDOW BOMB

A 36 inch Japanese Army window bomb was recovered on 12 May at BOLO POINT, OKINAWA.

About two inches in diameter, the bomb is made of pressed paper and painted dark gray. A pull igniter with a short delay fuze is fitted into the nose of the bomb. The igniter is pulled as the bomb is dropped. Upon clearing the plane, the bomb bursts, scattering strips of foil-covered paper. Such bombs are used to foul Allied radar and have been very effective.

(Extract from United States Pacific Fleet Weekly Intelligence Summary of 18 Jun 45)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3700 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol contacted 60 enemy at 106398. A party of 25 Japs was seen moving SOUTH down KILLENS TRACK at 103389 and was engaged by our arty, and a further 100 with LMGs and mortars at 101392. This party then moved in a North Westerly direction to 094406.

15 Aust Inf Bn. Further attacks on D Coy position were repulsed with heavy losses, 34 Japs were killed and 2 wounded PWs were captured. Hostile shelling continued on C Coy area and total casualties in the Bn area are now enemy 48 killed 5 wounded 2 PW, own 3 killed 6 wounded.

42 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol base has been established WEST of the MIVO RIVER at 109316 and contact has been made with a party of approx 36 Japs constructing huts at 103328. The party was engaged by our mortars and 2 enemy were killed.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy of unknown strength armed with a LMG have been located at 101377 and additional enemy casualties 8 Jul were 3 killed. 26 graves have also been found.

RAFFIES FORCE. Our patrol on the WEST bank of the MIVO RIVER at 117423 was engaged by enemy on the EAST bank resulting in 1 of our troops being wounded.

3701 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacts at 694181 and 615195 resulted in enemy casualties, 6 killed with 2 probably killed and own casualties 1 killed 1 wounded.

3702 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Two platoons en route to PORAPORA established a firm base and are harassing the enemy move from TANIMBAUBAU with LMG.

NEW GUINEA

3703 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 19 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols cleared two enemy positions on MT TAZAKI 330003 and 341004. Natives report Japs in strength in the vicinity of SOARIN 404002.

16 Aust Inf Bde. Two Japs were killed at 230096.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 5 killed own 4 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops captured a well prepared position NORTH of the ULUPU villages at 775962 killing 28 of the 30 Japs encountered.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols probed the enemy positions to the NE of YAMIL and to 804009 and captured the position at 790977.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 30 killed own 1 killed 7 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3704 BOUGAINVILLE

22 CORSAIRS bombed enemy bivouacs and concentration in 17 Army HQ area SOUTH OF MAIKA 363350 to 364347. Four huts destroyed one damaged and fires started. 20 CORSAIRS bombed hut concentrations at OLD UMBO 356444. Numerous huts were destroyed. 12 CORSAIRS bombed enemy force TOBAGO 316410 to 316415 results unobserved. 20 CORSAIRS attacked defences and enemy concentrations PORPOR RIVER FORD WEST of AKU 192323 to 194233, results unobserved. 12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed suspected gun position and enemy concentration WEST of OAMAI RIVER NORTH BUIN ROAD 144330 to 144345, results unobserved.

3705 NEW GUINEA

19 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed enemy positions A779961 to A778957 with excellent coverage. Three huts were fired and KUNAI fires started. 4 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed WERIMAN A7353 destroying at least 6 huts.

PHOTO COVERAGES

NEW GUINEA

3706

Title	: MAPRIK WEST - MAPRIK EAST
Mission	: MDG5/V23
Serial Nos	: 1 - 35
Co-ords	: 644020, 643975, 203018, 205973
RF	: 1:20000
Sqn	: 6 Sqn (NORCOM)
Date	: 27 Jun 45
Maps	: MAPRIK WEST - MAPRIK EAST 1" Prov - WEWAK WEST 1" Series
Type	: K17 Verticals
Quality	: Good

Correction - see ALO Bulletin No. 262 para 3630

3707	Title	: MAPRIK WEST - MAPRIK EAST
	Mission	: MDG5/V26
	Serial Nos	: Run 4 86 - 120
	Co-ords	: 629948, 630903, 128949, 129903
	RF	: 1:20000
	Sqn	: 6 Sqn (NORCOM)
	Date	: 30 Jun 45
	Maps	: MAPRIK WEST MAPRIK EAST 1" Prov WEWAK WEST 1" Series
	Type	: K17 Verticals
	Quality	: Good
3708	Title	: MAPRIK WEST - MAPRIK
	Mission	: MDG5/V26
	Serial Nos	: Run 3 45 - 85
	Co-ords	: 638970, 638927, 217983, 218939
	RF	: 1:20000
	Sqn	: 6 Sqn (NORCOM)
	Date	: 30 Jun 45
	Maps	: MAPRIK WEST MAPRIK EAST 1" Prov WEWAK WEST 1" Series
	Type	: K17 Verticals
	Quality	: Good
3709	Title	: MAPRIK WEST - MAPRIK EAST
	Mission	: MDG5/V26
	Serial Nos	: Run 2 1 - 44
	Co-ords	: 630993, 631948, 248011, 249967
	RF	: 1:20000
	Sqn	: 6 Sqn (NORCOM)
	Date	: 30 Jun 45
	Maps	: MAPRIK WEST MAPRIK EAST 1" Prov WEWAK WEST 1" Series
	Type	: K17 Verticals

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3710 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3711 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3712 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3713 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

Hwisaltmaj

for Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
10 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 268
(Compiled from infm to 110900K)

GENERAL

3724 CORSAIRS STRIKE JAP 17 ARMY HQ

COMAIRNORSOLS have furnished the following additional information concerning the strike by 42 CORSAIRS on the Jap 17 Army HQ on 7 Jul - para 3677 refers.

"The Headquarters of the Japanese 17th Army is located in a semicircular pattern (357358 to 359356) in a butted area 250 yards in width near MAIKA. AIB reports and air recce flights have outlined the headquarters; targets within the area were accurately pin-pointed by an extremely co-operative POW captured at RUSEI 22 Jun. This strike was scheduled on the 5 and 6 Jul but was weathered out both days.

Following a report that the ceiling was 3,000' over the target area aircraft took off to strike it at 0730 on Saturday (7 Jul).

At 0820 twelve NZ 15 Aircraft carried four half tonners and sixteen 250 pounders over the area. The target was accurately smoked. 11 bombs fell within 20 yards of the smoke and six more fell SOUTH of the smoke on instructions from "SMOKEY JOE". One half tonner and a pair of 250 pounders were jettisoned at sea by aircraft returning to base early with magneto trouble.

At 0822 twelve NZ 18 CORSAIRS carried 4 half tonners, four 250 pounders, and four 650 pound depth charges over the area. Three bombs dropped SOUTH of the target (as instructed) and the remainder fell in the area for unobserved results.

At 0823 twelve NZ 22 CORSAIRS (including one "SMOKEY JOE") carried 4 half tonners, a pair of 250 pounders, a single 700 and half dozen 650 pound depth charges plus 2 smokes over the area. All but two 250 pounders fell in the target area. Much damage was done (see below).

At 0824 eight NZ 23 CORSAIRS completed the strike with a pair of 1000 pounders, two 650 pound depth charges and four 250 pound general purpose bombs. A single 650 pound depth charge was jettisoned at sea due to electrical trouble; the remainder of the bombs fell in the target area near the smoke.

The combined strike destroyed twenty (plus) huts. Much paper was scattered about. Air raid shelters were disclosed. Four bodies were noted outside one shelter. A staff car was seen wedged in between two trees after the bombing (356356 between MAIKA and MUGUAI). The blast effect of the bombs tore the camouflage from many huts that were not destroyed. It is considered that at least 20 are left intact.

A platoon of 16 Nips were marching down the road. They hit the deck on the approach of the aircraft and were strafed with unobserved results. This was 1½ miles NORTH of LUIRAU 333452. One Nip was strafed and killed in a garden at MUGUAI.

A single aircraft made a target recce flight after the strike dropping a pair of 250 pounders near MAIKA 364348 and destroying three huts.

A single bomb was seen to cause a tree-top high flash and smoke in the 17th Army HQ target area."

3715 ENEMY CONCENTRATIONS - SOUTHERN BOUGAINVILLE

A map of SOUTHERN BOUGAINVILLE (excl OUTER ISLANDS) showing enemy situation as at 9 Jul 45 is attached as Appendix "A". This map defines the principal concentration areas to which air attacks are now being directed.

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3716 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol contacted a party of Japanese EAST of the MOBIAI RIVER at 109404, killing 2 Japs and wounding.1 When a further 30 Japs were contacted our patrol withdrew.

15 Aust Inf Bn. Hostile shelling continued in the Bn area and 190 rounds of 150 mm fell in B, C and D Coys. Our patrols were unable to cross the MIVO RIVER due to floods. 5 Jap graves were located.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Two enemy guns have been located on the MIVO RIVER in the vicinity of 123318. A patrol contacted enemy of unknown strength WEST of the river at 105328 and a further 40/60 Japs at 106325. Total casualties were 7 killed, own 1 killed, 1 wounded and 3 missing.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy parties engaged D Coy area.

RAFFLES FORCE. A patrol ambushed 40 Japs at 111417 and killed 20. Own casualties one officer killed.

3717 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engagement took place at 694121 and a further Jap position was located to the NORTH.

3718 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. On night 9/10 Jul enemy were active against B Coy perimeter and on 10 Jul 12 enemy were ambushed by our patrol at 322712 killing 3 Japs.

AIB. Total casualties inflicted BOUGAINVILLE for Jun by AIB parties are 553 confirmed killed and 50 unconfirmed. This brings the total killed by AIB parties to 30 Jun 45 to 2818 confirmed killed and 292 unconfirmed killed.

NEW BRITAIN

3719 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. B Coy located at 682530 were fired on by a force of 30 Japs on the EAST bank of the MOONDEI RIVER with grenade discharger rifles and automatic weapons. Our arty brought down fire on the enemy who withdrew to the EAST. We suffered no casualties. C Coy has now moved to 681529 and D Coy 28 Aust Inf Bn under command 11 Aust Inf Bn moved to 659533.

1 NGIB. B Coy located 656523.

AIB. In the occupied village of LEMINGI the natives are not allowed in under threat of execution. Radio is stated to be there but no details are known. Food is brought

from RABAUL direction once a month by 5 to 6 pack horses and consists of rice salt and biscuits, 1/3 for each village. Rice and biscuits are in rotten containers and are spoilt and weevily. All clothing is said to be in bad condition and some of the Japs are going barefoot.

NEW GUINEA

3720 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. Our arty and mortars engaged a party of 20 Japs SOUTH of MT SHIBURANGU at 309998 with unknown results. A further party of 20 Japs in positions a mile to the SW were engaged by a patrol and 5 were killed.

2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt. A patrol engaged 10 Japs in the village of NUMBATUI at 1517 and when the enemy withdrew the village was burnt and packs and food were destroyed.

Total casualties 13 enemy killed, own 1 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops engaged two positions in the vicinity of ULUPU killing 6 Japs and the village of ULUM 778963 was occupied.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops occupied a position at 806996.

2 NGIB. A patrol successfully ambushed a Jap party at 753833 killing 4.

Total casualties 21 enemy killed, own 3 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3721 BOUGAINVILLE

11 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed a MT park and fuel dump in the vicinity of MUGUAI 357371. One truck was seen to be destroyed. A large fire was visible for 30 miles. 20 CORSAIRS bombed enemy occupied huts at IULA 753435, two huts were destroyed and many damaged. 12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed gun position NORTH of the BUIN ROAD and 44 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy concentrations at road junction EAST of the MIVO RIVER from 127430 to 124352.

3722 NEW IRELAND

CORSAIR patrols attacked MT and enemy occupied huts in the KAVIENG PANAPAI area. One truck and five huts were destroyed.

3723 NEW GUINEA

18 BEAUFORTS accurately attacked a timbered knoll NE of YAMIL at 804009 in support of 2/6 Aust Inf Bn. After the strike dummy runs were made to cover the advancing troops. Enemy positions on the BLOT 302988 were bombed by 3 BEAUFORTS.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3724 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

3725 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3726 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3727 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS
(Progress to 092400I)

BORNEO

3728 BALIKPAPAN

2/14 Aust Inf Bn. Following naval and air bombardment the ridge 738684 to 743678 was captured and 16 PW taken.

2/16 Aust Inf Bn. The Bn captured a position at 633642.

2/33 Aust Inf Bn. The Bn is advancing NORTH following the enemy withdrawal.

2/25 Aust Inf Bn. The Bn is holding the road NW from junction at 597654.

2/31 Aust Inf Bn. Forward troops have reached 633676 against opposition.

2/6 Aust Cdo Sqn. The sqn has reached 601684.

3729 BRUNEI WEST

2/13 Aust Inf Bn reached the area 5579.

3730 LABUAN EAST

24 Aust Inf Bde. Local patrolling continues and enemy positions at 430871 and 429859 were bombed.

3731 TARAKAN

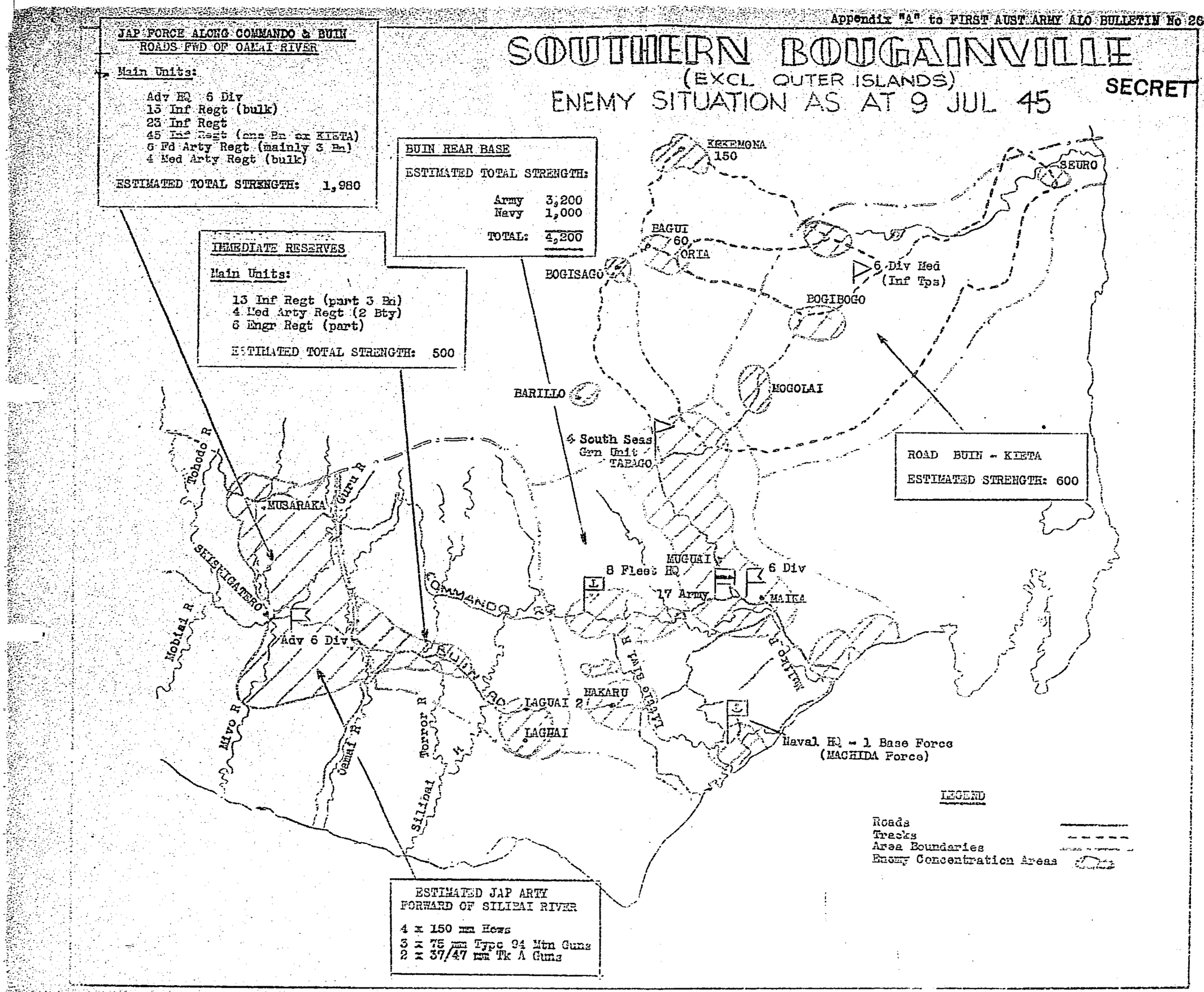
26 Aust Inf Bde. Patrolling continues.

Casualties for the 24 hour period to 092400I are enemy 15 killed, 10 PW.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
11 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for AIO Bulletin No 239.


SOUTHERN BOUGAINVILLE
(EXCL OUTER ISLANDS)
ENEMY SITUATION AS AT 9 JUL 45
SECRET
JAP FORCE ALONG COMMANDO & BUIN ROADS FWD OF OAMAI RIVER
Main Units:
Adv HQ 6 Div
13 Inf Regt (bulk)
23 Inf Regt
45 Inf Regt (one Bn ex KIETA)
6 Fd Arty Regt (mainly 3 Bn)
4 Med Arty Regt (bulk)
ESTIMATED TOTAL STRENGTH: 1,980
BUIN REAR BASE
ESTIMATED TOTAL STRENGTH:
Army 3,200
Navy 1,000
TOTAL: 4,200
IMMEDIATE RESERVES
Main Units:
13 Inf Regt (part 3 Bn)
4 Med Arty Regt (2 Bty)
6 Engr Regt (part)
ESTIMATED TOTAL STRENGTH: 500
KEKEMONA 150
SEURO
BAGUI 60
ORIA
BOGISAGO
6 Div Med (Inf Tps)
BOGIBOGO
BARILLO
MOGOLAI
4 South Seas Grn Unit
TABAGO
ROAD BUIN - KIETA
ESTIMATED STRENGTH: 600
Tohodo R
MUSARAKA
Guru R
SHISHIGATERO
Mobiai R
Adv 6 Div
COMMANDO RD
BUIN RD
MUGUAI
8 Fleet HQ
6 Div
17 Army
MAIKA
Mulikio R
Little Siwi R
NAKARU
LAGUAI 2
LAGUAI
Mivo R
Oamai R
Torror R
Silibai R
Naval HQ - 1 Base Force (MACHIDA Force)
LEGEND
Roads
Tracks
Area Boundaries
Enemy Concentration Areas
ESTIMATED JAP ARTY FORWARD OF SILIBAI RIVER
4 x 150 mm Hows
3 x 75 mm Type 94 Mtn Guns
2 x 37/47 mm Tk A Guns

W/D

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY AIO BULLETIN NO. 269
(Compiled from infm to 120900K)

GENERAL

3732 INFRA-RED AND COLOUR FILM

RNZAF BOUGAINVILLE offer the following comments on their recent trials with infra-red and colour film:-

Broadly speaking, the infra-red has its greatest use in the detection of camouflage. Its use, compared with that of the normal panchromatic type of aerial film, is very limited, especially so in this area where the resulting prints, because of their most unnatural tones, are of value for the purpose of interpretation only, and would be of no use for target briefing work. However, the fact that on infra-red, normal dark tone green foliage prints white, provided it is alive, sometimes discloses evidence of activity which might be missed using the normal processes. Cut branches of trees, canvas and other material painted with lead colour, will print black and as a result contrast with the living growth very plainly. In theory this sounds very simple but in practice it is not always so easy. Air reconnaissance can help the photographers greatly be letting us know when they consider they have spotted positions which employ the above type of camouflage.

Colour film, although it produces a very interesting photograph, is also limited in its scope as compared to the panchromatic emulsions. It can prove very helpful though by establishing the colour of things which normally are rendered in similar shades of gray with the monochrome print. The characteristic colour of crops and vegetation are shown, red objects which sometimes appear white with the monochrome are easily detected, and small patches of colour appearing through the trees, which might be missed easily on the black and white, may lead to a closer inspection with possibly a discovery. Here again, the film is only a transparency which precludes squadron distribution and limits still further its use in this area.
(Extract from RNZAF Intelligence Bulletin No.205 5 Jul)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3733 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. A party of 20/30 Japs were engaged at 108358 and 10 were killed, six wounded and one PW was taken. Our positions at 108541 were shelled without casualties.

42 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol basehas now been established at 110315.

RAFFLES FORCE. 50 Japs have been seen moving WEST at 2344 and a further 50 have been located in the gardens in the vicinity of the PORROR RIVER at 224360.

3734 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Heavy opposition was again encountered at 694181, 3 enemy were killed.

NEW BRITAIN

3735 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. 6 Japs were sighted at 707553.

NEW GUINEA

3736 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. A recce patrol observed THE BLOT at 301998. No defences were seen but the approaches are difficult.

30 Aust Inf Bn. On night 10/11 Jul there was considerable enemy activity around our positions at 325004, 330004 and 340004 which culminated in a bayonet charge on the first position. 4 Japs were killed in the engagement, own casualties 1 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/6 Aust Inf Bn. The enemy position 804009 was attacked and captured against stiff opposition. 9 Japs were killed, our casualties 2 wounded. A patrol occupied knoll at 804009.

2 NGIB. A patrol contacted 20 Japs at KWAMBIKUM.

2/1 Tk A Regt. A patrol which is moving SOUTH to MANGINGE 6672 reports no contact.

AIB reports that the HQ of Maj Gen SHOGE is at NUMBOGUA 7458.

OWN AIROPS

3737 BOUGAINVILLE

20 CORSAIRS attacked a Jap camp near the MULIKO RIVER at 328342, visible damage 2 huts destroyed. 13 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed 2 heavy gun positions at MOILA POINT but no damage was observed.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3738 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3739 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3740 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3741 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS
(Progress to 1024001)

BORNEO

3742 BALIKPAPAN

2/16 Aust Inf Bn. Patrolling from 638667 to SAMARINDA ROAD to contact 23 Aust Inf Bde.

2/7 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt. A patrol reached 665645 after the enemy had withdrawn.

2/31 Aust Inf Bn. Forward troops are now at 629671.

3743 BRUNEI WEST

2/15 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol returned to KEBIA from ABANG and reports no movement seen.

2/17 Aust Inf Bn reached 8770.

3744 LABUAN EAST

2/32 Aust Inf Bn. Coy moved by LCM from JEMBA KUT RIVER to 541268 and a further coy advance to KIMONIS reports no movement seen.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol is in contact at 428887.

Casualties NW BORNEO for 24 hours to 092400I, enemy 16 killed estimated 5 additional dead.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
12 Jul 45

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WD

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 270
(Compiled from Infm. to 130900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3745 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. An enemy party estimated to be 30 strong armed with 3 LMGs ambushed a patrol from A Coy SOUTH of the BUIN ROAD at 047367. Casualties own troops one wounded enemy one wounded. Our mortars engaged the Jap position on the OGORATA RIVER at 043383 and a later patrol to the area reports no movement seen.

15 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol base has now been established on the MIVO RIVER at 123360. Patrol from B Coy killed 1 Jap and wounded 4 when they engaged with mortars a party located forward of the MIVO RIVER at 112335.

47 Aust Inf Bn. A party of 20/30 Japs has been seen moving in a SW direction from 094390.

RAFFLES FORCE. Two of six enemy were killed in an engagement at 155328. 9 Pl returned to base after patrolling in the vicinity OAMAI RIVER and report no movement seen.

AIB reports that the Japs from ISINA 309974 joined those at WIDA 303709 and the combined force left WIDA on the night 8/9 Jul for the coast.

3746 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-KURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. An enemy party ambushed one of our jeeps at 309709.

SAPOSA ISLAND. On the night 11/12 Jul a lakatoi which approached the WEST end of the island returned fire when engaged by our LMG and mortar.

TAICF ISLAND. An ML was fired on by arty on the NORTH side of the BUKA PASSAGE. Our arty on SORAKEN PENINSULA fired on enemy guns which ceased.

AIB reports that the enemy party moving NORTH towards TANIMBAUBAU has now passed NORTH of that place and is probably heading for TON 347693.

NEW BRITAIN

3747 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. A Coy 28 Aust Inf Bn is under command and is located at659519. C Coy with pl 1 NGIB is established on the LEMINGI TRACK at 711562 and D Coy on the coastal track two miles EAST of MARUPA at 704520.

AIB patrol was fired on by unidentified troops at 519568 some six to seven miles WNW of TOL.

3748 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol observed Japs on the coastal track SOUTH of the MATALAILI RIVER.

NEW GUINEA

3749 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 8 Aust Inf Bde HQ has now opened at 367051

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 3 killed.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops have now occupied a position NORTH of KULAURU MISSION and captured ULUPU 2 772951.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols probed the Jap positions to the NORTH of the KABOIBUS villages and our positions at 801996 and 810998 were engaged by HMG and LMG.

2 NGIB. Patrols killed six Japs at 7495 and 7591.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 22 killed, 1 PW.

OWN AIROPS

3750 BOUGAINVILLE

20 CORSAIRS bombed a large concentration of Jap occupied huts at MAIKI 406312. Six huts were destroyed. 12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy defences and Jap occupied huts LOBAI RIVER 299502 and UGUIMO RIVER 290319. No results observed. 20 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed 150 mm guns junction BUIN and PIANO MISSION road 188324 to 189328, results were unobserved.

3751 NEW BRITAIN

2 CORSAIRS carried out an armed recce and attacked targets in the vicinity of WAT WAT. Direct hit destroyed gun with smoke rising to 300 ft, collapsed the entrance to a cave and destroyed pillbox. MT was strafed near KERAVAT and one truck fully laden exploded at TOMBOINA. 9 MITCHELLS bombed tunnel entrances and stores dump EAST RABAUL all bombs in target area. 9 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas WEST of RABAUL, results were unobserved. 6 MITCHELLS bombed stores and bivouac areas VUNAKANAU, clouds obscured the results.

3752 NEW GUINEA

11 BEAUFORTS accurately bombed enemy positions on ridge SOUTH of ULUNKOHOITU and strafed BRANDI RIVER from B355978 to B396964. 12 BEAUFORTS bombed enemy dug in V815002 with unsatisfactory results due to low cloud and heavy rain.

AIB report 11 Japs killed by air strikes on 10 Jul at KUPULUP A8446 and WEREMAN A7352.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3753 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3754 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3755 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3756 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS
(Progress to 112400I)

BORNEO

3757 BALIKPAPAN

2/27 Aust Inf Bn contacted enemy at 738690.

2/31 Aust Inf Bn with mortar and arty support attacked enemy positions and reached 635677. 40 Japs were killed in this engagement.

Casualties own troops 8 killed 52 wounded 1 missing.

3758 BRUNEI WEST

2/13 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacted enemy defences at 452786.

3759 LABUAN EAST

2/27 Aust Inf Bn. Elements engaged enemy position at 428886.

2/32 Aust Inf Bn continued their advance to the PAPAR RIVER. Enemy casualties 7 killed 4 estimated additional dead 2 PW.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
13 Jul 45

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SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 271
(Compiled from infm to 140900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3760 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 47 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols were active along the MOBIAI RIVER and 2 Japs were killed and 1 wounded when contact took place at 096367. Approx 120 Japs are reported to be in the area 114380 and 105370.

15 Aust Inf Bn. Small parties were engaged around the MIVO RIVER area and 7 Japs were killed and 2 wounded during the day.

24 Aust Inf Bn. There were signs of approx 40 Japs in area around the URAI GARDENS.

AIB reports a probable type 94 75 mm gun was taken to BOGASAGO 300529 approx six months ago to shell natives at KIKIMONA 340592 but the gun was later returned to TOBAGO 310201.

3761 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIa. 7 Aust Inf Bn. 15 Pl supported by air, arty and mortars attacked the Jap position at 694182 to the NORTH of WEARNES HILL. Results of the engagement are not yet to hand but preliminary reports give 5 Japs killed own 2 wounded.

3762 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. A jeep stretcher carrier exploded a mine at 309707 resulting in one of our troops being wounded and a jeep train was ambushed by a party of Japs near the RURI BAY track and one of our own troops was killed and 4 wounded.

TAIOF ISLAND. Our OP reports two 6" guns were fired from SOHANA ISLAND and the area was then engaged by 141 Aust Hvy A/A Bty on the SORAKEN PENINSULA.

NEW BRITAIN

3763 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy with 1 Pl NGIB now located inland at 730533.

3764 OPEN BAY

AIB. TOGIU patrol reached camp at 290786 on the LUI CREEK. Japs picked up their tracks but the patrol evaded the enemy and spent two days in the area. The area showed some activity.

NEW GUINEA

3765 WEWAK

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops captured the position to the NE of the ULUPU villages killing 15 Japs and a patrol SOUTH from ULUPU 2 cleared the track to 775942.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops continued to probe the enemy defences and captured a position SOUTH of ULUNKOHOITU.

at 814996 and killed 4 of a party of 6 Japs encountered at 828032.

Total casualties enemy 25 killed 1 PW, own 1 killed 2 wounded.

AIB. It is now thought that the MYAKE FORCE HQ is located at ONIAROPU 780955. A native report of a yet unclassified reliability states that at a conference of high ranking officers at BUKINARA on 7 Jul the enemy decided to withdraw from the present area of operations to the SEPIK leaving only a rear guard to hold the line MALABEIM 8496 to KABOIBUS until the withdrawal is completed. Much activity is reported at SUAUI and GWALIP villages 8293 and a report of movement NORTH from SUAUI to MALABEIM and EAST from approx 880980 lends colour to this information.

OWN AIROPS

3766. BOUGAINVILLE

23 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed Jap occupied huts in the vicinity of the MULIKO RIVER NE of KAHILI 399308 airfield. Several huts destroyed. 12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed an ammunition dump. 12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy defences in 7 Aust Inf Bn Area NORTH WEARNES HILL 694179 results unobserved.

3767. NEW BRITAIN

4 CORSAIRS bombed hut and personnel areas ADLER BAY. Three huts destroyed, an explosion with smoke to 800 ft. 10 CORSAIRS operating from JACQUINOT patrolled GAZELLE PENINSULA. Targets of opportunity were attacked and one truck destroyed and Jap personnel killed. 5 MITCHELLS bombed stores area in the vicinity RABAUL with good coverage. Due to low clouds results could not be observed.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3768. BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No 261.

3769. NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No 94.

3770. NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3771. NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS
(Progress to 121200I)

BORNEO

3772 BALIKPAPAN

2/27 Aust Inf Bn have continued their advance to the NE from MANGGAR and have now reached 757757 without contact.

2/31 Aust Inf Bn. The Bn is now in contact along the MILFORD HIGHWAY at 637675 and patrols to the EAST and WEST report no movement seen.

2/6 Aust Cdo Sqn. Patrolling NORTH along the highway have reached 637685.

2/9 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol from NANANG 4853 along the coastal road to the TOENAN RIVER 3746 reports the area to be clear

Total enemy casualties to 121200I are 1048 killed, 205 estimated additional dead, 26 PW with total casualties own troops to 120600I 127 killed, 442 wounded and 14 missing.

3773 BRUNEI WEST

2/13 Aust Inf Bn. One patrol has reported contact at 444787.

2/32 Aust Inf Bn occupied PAPAR against opposition and a coastal patrol reached 563347 without contact.

Total enemy casualties NW BORNEO to 121200I 1042 killed, 105 estimated additional dead, 117 PW with total casualties own troops to 120600I, 70 kiled 186 wounded and 1 missing.

3774 TARAKAN

Total enemy casualties to 121200I 1390 killed 233 estimated additional dead and 226 PW with total casualties own troops to 120600I 222 killed 647 wounded and 12 missing.

R B Collard.
Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
14 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239.

WD

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 272
(Compiled from Infm to 150900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3775 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 47 Aust Inf Bn. Small enemy recce party observed WEST of KILLENS track at 081374 and 097367 in B Coy area.

15 Aust Inf Bn. Repeated efforts by enemy parties to probe our defences again proved unsuccessful. Hostile shelling attempted to engage our positions in the vicinity of MIVO RIVER FORD but proved ineffective. Our patrols located and attacked small enemy parties along the BUIN ROAD at 122340 and WEST of the MIVO RIVER 107327. Two Japs were killed and one wounded. Strong enemy positions were reported at 107325 and 110326 and later our arty engaged the former position. A Coy has established a patrol base on the WEST bank of the WAPIAI RIVER at 133355.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Two Japs reported killed, one wounded at 093362.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn advise natives report JAP movement NORTH of their positions in the vicinity of UNANAI; also two jeeps were ambushed approx 150 yds SOUTH HQ 2/11 Aust Fd Regt at 029364.

AIB continue to harass enemy concentrations and report a partisan attack against a JAPANESE outpost near AROPA 388795 on 4 Jul. Twentyone JAPS were killed with grenades and a house was destroyed.

3776 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Our arty harassed enemy position NNW of WEARNES HILL at 695184 on night 13/14 Jul. Patrol located and engaged an enemy position at CAMERONS, then moved SOUTH to clear HILL feature 695184. Casualties enemy 2 killed own one native scout killed.

PIB. Minor patrol skirmishes resulted in 4 JAPS killed 697191, 2 at 615198.

3777 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn ambushed small party of JAPS NORTH of C Coy area at 328178. One JAP was killed, one probably killed and another wounded and later captured with LMG. There is evidence a JAP party infiltrated NORTH through our lines from the RURI BAY area.

8 Aust Inf Bn engaged a party of 6 JAPS in the NE corner of BUOI PLANTATION 284695. One JAP was killed.

TAIOF ISLAND. 141 Hvy AA Bty. B troop sank a barge WEST of SOHANA ISLAND at 174793 and shelled enemy concentrations near the jetty. Two 6" JAP guns reported in ALO Bulletin No. 271 para 3762 attempted to engage our gun positions located on SORAKEN PENINSULA, but return fire immediately silenced the enemy's gun.

AIB. A recce patrol of three men attacked a JAPANESE party approx 40 strong southward bound WEST of ASITAVI MISSION at 728337. The enemy was well equipped with three mortars and three LMGs. Five JAPS were killed.

NEW BRITAIN

3778 OPEN BAY

of 37/52 Aust Inf Bn. Section outpost located SOUTH/AILO point at 287682 observed two JAPS at 286628.

NEW GUINEA

3779 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. Aggressive patrolling supported by sustained harassing fire and dummy bombing runs by RAAF manned BEAUFORTS resulted in the capture of THE BLOT B300997. Our troops then exploited WEST along the spur.

8 Aust Inf Bde. Under comd 30 Aust Inf Bn, 2 Coys, 2/11 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust MG Bn. This force known as F FORCE will be responsible for the area excluding WIRUI creek W333060 including MANDI W430008.

16 Aust Inf Bde. report an attack on our position at W226097 was repulsed and four JAPS were killed. Active patrols continue to harass enemy troops and advise six killed W2209. Japanese positions were successfully attacked at W226094 and a further 5 Japs killed.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 24 killed 1 PW, own 4 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops have now occupied OINYALIB A777955, WALAHINE 800978 and report TAMUP A804975 to be clear of enemy. A well prepared position was located by one of our patrols WEST of YAMIL at A777952 and 5 JAPS were killed.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol activity continued and areas NORTH of ULUNKOHOITU at V814013 and V811012 are occupied by the JAPS. This area is being reinforced from enemy concentrations located at ULUNKOHOITU A815998. A further enemy party estimated approx 20 strong is established along a track at V827031.

2 NGIB. Native troops captured the western portion of GISANABU A772892 and report a further engagement with the enemy in the eastern sector of this area. 11 Japs were killed. Patrols engaged further JAP parties in strength at DUNBIT A753825 killing 16 JAPS.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 42 killed own 3 killed 4 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3780 BOUGAINVILLE

12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy defensive positions WEST of the OAMAI RIVER FORD in the vicinity of the BUIN ROAD 151332 to 153331, results were unobserved. 11 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy concentrations and ammunition dumps WEST of the track junction at 167323. Heavy black smoke to the height of 100 ft indicated a direct hit. 22 CORSAIRS bombed a large enemy party equipped with machine guns in the TOBAGO area, one hut was destroyed. 23 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentrations at UMBO 354435 and 352354, results unobserved.

3781 NEW IRELAND

CORSAIR patrols during an armed sweep destroyed three huts at HIMAU.

3782 NEW GUINEA

24 BEAUFORTS in support of ground troops bombed enemy positions A815998 to C15001 gaining good coverage, three huts destroyed. Pilots report position of smoke indicators varied considerably. Later three aircraft made dummy bombing raids over THE BLOT V302988 to cover the attack by our ground troops. Due to cloud 7 BEAUFORTS were unable to bomb target area and attacked secondary targets at JAMA A6264 and village A589620. All bombs fell within 50 yds of the target.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3783 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3784 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3785 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3786 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3787 BALIKPAPAN

2/27 Aust Inf Bn reached AMBORAWANG 7975 without contact.

2/6 Aust Cdo Sqn patrol ambushed enemy at 635685.

2/25 Aust Inf Bn relieved 2/31 Aust Inf Bn and are in contact in the general area 635675.

2/9 Aust Inf Bn. Patrolling in the PENDAJAM and DJIMABORA areas.

Total enemy casualties for 48 hrs to 122400I are 252 killed 4 estimated additional dead, 8 PW; own casualties for 24 hrs to 130600I 2 killed, 16 wounded.

3788 BRUNEI WEST

2/15 Aust Inf Bn river patrol moved to IMANG and area 333290, no movement seen. A Further patrol from KEBIA 2626 reached a village at 1818.

3789 LABUAN EAST

2/32 Aust Inf Bn. Two coys reached PAPAR village.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn contacted enemy 4288.

Total enemy casualties NW BORNEO for 24 hrs to 132400I, 2 killed, 2 estimated additional dead, 2 PW, own troops to 130600I, nil.

3790 TARAKAN.

Patrolling continues.

Total enemy casualties for 24 hrs to 132400I are 4 killed, own troops to 130600I, nil.

G(Air)
15 Jul 45
DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239.

H. G. Higson Lt Col
GS

W D

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN NO. 273
(Compiled from Inftm to 160900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3791 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrol base has now moved to 126367. Minor patrol engagements took place during the day and a total of five Japs were killed in the Bn area.

42 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol killed 2 of 3 Japs at 093383 and a party of 30 Japs were contacted at 098374. C Coy patrol engaged a strong party of Japs at 081374 and killed 8.

24 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol engaged approx 30 Japs at 043382 and killed 5 including an officer.

AIB scouts have definitely located 17 Army HQ. During a recent raid a scout crawled through the lines and recognised the commanding general (Lt Gen KANDA) at about 30 yds distance but poultry gave the alarm forcing the scout to withdraw.

3792 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. C Coy patrol reports renewed enemy activity in the vicinity CAMERONS HILL.

AIB reports that the Japs have evacuated all inland posts and the entire coast from TARARA 980125 to 2193, and the guns and heavy equipment in the RORAVANA area were removed by submarine. All coastal natives from the TARARA VITO area were taken with the Japs and all arms and equipment which could not be carried were destroyed. The retreat was so fast that the partisans were only able to kill 5 Japs but many dead were found in houses and many graves were located.

3793 NORTHERN SECTOR

Only minor patrol activity is reported. The track which runs from 292678 to 287697 will be known as GROVE track.

NEW BRITAIN

3794 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. C Coy with pl of NGIB have advanced along the LEMINGI track to 719571 and D Coy less a pl plus a pl NGIB have moved eastwards to the vicinity of the UMAMITKI RIVER at 758530.

1 NGIB. A Coy have arrived at JACQUINOT BAY.

Following the report of enemy fire on an AIB patrol at 517569 from the NORTH bank of the MEVELO RIVER - para 3747 refers - a patrol now reports that a maximum of 3 Japs accompanied by many natives followed the track down the river 516573 and then returned by the same route.

3795 OPEN BAY

AIB reports that there are many Japs camped behind second defences at approx 290650 and another big new camp is at 316652. The area is becoming increasingly difficult to approach because of Jap security patrols.

NEW GUINEA

3796 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR.19 Aust Inf Bde. An enemy counter attack on THE BLOT (corrected map reference 302988) was repulsed and the enemy withdrew to the SOUTH. Our forward troops killed 5 of a party of 10 Japs on the track one mile NORTH of HAMBRAURI and occupied a knoll at 293992.

16 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols report killing 5 Japs at 2108.

Total casualties enemy 19 killed, own 1 killed three wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops captured positions at 813976 and at KWALANDU 788954.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged a well prepared position at ULUNKOHOITU 815998 and approx 40 Japs are reported to be in the area 8908 and Japs in strength at SUMOGAN 863105, SOUTH of BANABITAM.

2 NGIB. The village of KWAMBIKUM 784883 was captured and SUAMBIKUM 779879 and NARANGO 757925 were occupied.

ANGAU patrol reports there are 120 Japs at SAMA.

Total casualties enemy 33 killed, own 4 killed 5 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3797 BOUGAINVILLE

11 CORSAIRS attacked enemy concentrations on the WEST bank of the MIVO RIVER at 123327 to 126329 and 12 CORSAIRS bombed a defensive position in the area 1132. Results of both strikes were unobserved. A force of 25 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed suspected MT park on the MULIKO RIVER track. 24 CORSAIRS destroyed three huts when they bombed a bivouac at 340345 to 343348.

3798 NEW BRITAIN

6 MITCHELLS struck stores and a barge point at TOBOI leaving the target covered by dense black smoke. 9 MITCHELLS bombed a supply area NORTH of MALAGUNA with unobserved results and a further 9 MITCHELLS dropped 64 of their 72 250lb bombs on personnel area NW TAWLIUA.

3799 NEW GUINEA

28 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed a defensive position on TIMBERED KNOLL 814013 clearing vegetation and opening up several pill boxes.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3800 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

3801 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3802 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3803 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3804 BALIKPAPAN

HQ 7 Aust Div located 562594.

HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde, located 622595.

2/27 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols contacted enemy at 735710, 725696.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols located CD guns at 725672 and 727691.

2/16 Aust Inf Bn. Troops reached unoccupied defensive position at 697687 and established a patrol base. Patrols are now moving to 669689.

Total casualties enemy no report, own troops to 140600I, 4 killed 8 wounded.

3805 BRUNEI WEST

2/17 Aust Inf Bn. Coy moving to MARUDI along BAROW RIVER with HMAS BATTLESNAKE in support. One coy is located at 764086.

2/32 Aust Inf Bn. Active patrolling NORTH and SOUTH PAPAR with coys now at 583335 and 577331.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn are in contact SE BEAUFORT.

Total casualties enemy for 24 hrs to 132400I 13 killed, 2 estimated additional dead, 2 PW, own troops to 140600I 2 wounded.

3806 TARAKAN

Total casualties enemy to 142000I 19 killed, 9 PW, own casualties nil.

H W Waldmaj

for Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
16 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 239.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 274
(Compiled from infm to 170900K)

GENERAL

3807 EFFECTIVENESS OF BOMBS - MILITARY POINT OF VIEW

Heavy bombers were largely employed in a tactical role in EUROPE during the period Jun - Oct 1944 and the following extract from a SHAEF report gives a summary of the military effects on the enemy of the various types of bombs that were used:-

"20 lb FRAGMENTATION BOMB (M.41): For all practical purposes this bomb makes no crater. Its damaging effects are due to fragments.

260 lb FRAGMENTATION BOMB (M181): This fragmentation bomb also causes practically no crater.

100 lb GENERAL PURPOSE BOMB: This type of bomb, when fused either nose-instantaneous or "tail-instantaneous", does not prevent the movement of our own troops since the craters, even in soft ground, are small in diameter and shallow. Examination of places where they have been used suggests that the main zone of fragments comes off at a small angle with the ground, and the indications are therefore that the fragments would have considerable effect on exposed personnel or vehicles. The advantage of such bombs, as compared with larger bombs in attacks on field targets, is that many more can be carried per aircraft load, and that consequently a higher density of strikes is achieved.

500 lb and 1,000 lb BOMBS FUSED .025 SECOND'S DELAY: The craters from these bombs are very large and deep, up to 45 ft in diameter and 18 ft in depth for the 1,000 lb bomb. When their density exceeds 5 per acre in towns and villages, they stop all movement and make road clearance a heavy task. Their lethal value arises largely from debris and the direct disruptive effects of the explosion (e.g. ground shock).

500 lb and 1,000 lb BOMBS FUSED PISTOL M.44: These bombs have so far only been used on some two occasions, on both of which a fair proportion fell in cornfields. The purpose of the fuse is to produce an explosion which is above or at ground level, but examination of areas in which the bombs fell suggests that the fuse is somewhat variable in its performance. The craters, however, are never more than some 14 ft in diameter and 4 ft deep at the centre. Generally it would not seem that they would seriously impede the progress of wheeled vehicles. A bomb fused with the M.44 pistol exercises its effects by fragments and blast, and is similar in its effects to the same bomb fused nose-instantaneous."

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3808 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. The patrol base which was established on 15 Jul at 126363 in the northern MIVO area reports that the former base at 133335 was attacked by a force of 40/50 Japs. A patrol which was sent out to investigate huts and pill boxes to the EAST of the MIVO RIVER was engaged by enemy of unknown strength and it was forced to withdraw across the river after suffering casualties. 4 Japs and 2 of our own troops were killed in the encounter. A further patrol which was sent out to assist was engaged at the MIVO RIVER crossing.

42 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol was attacked by 25/30 Japs one mile WEST of SHISHIGATERO 110325. The attack was repulsed and the enemy suffered 9 killed and one of our own troops was wounded. A further patrol killed 3 Japs in the area 1032.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Our arty engaged 60/100 enemy buildings and huts at 104378.

AIB reports that 2 Japs were killed in the LUIRAU gardens 363432 and another was shot at the LOBAI RIVER. A patrol at SOROVIA 419666 reports that local partisans killed 6 Japs up to 11 Jul.

3809 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. The enemy on CAMERONS HILL were harassed by mortar and small arms fire.

3810 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. There were minor patrol engagements throughout the day and a small Jap party was sighted in the BUOI PLANTATION at 284696.

NEW BRITAIN

3811 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. C Coy with pl NGIB moving back along the LEMINGI track have reached the point 711561.

NEW GUINEA

3812 MADANG - HANSA BAY

ANNANBERG. AIB report that three FELO police boys were attacked by hostile natives at POKRIBU 299559on 14 Jul. They also report that the natives are hostile to the Japanese.

3813 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops have now occupied HAMBRAURI ONE 294983 and have engaged a further position to the NORTH where the action continues. A patrol killed 6 Japs and captured an 81 mm mortar plus ammunition at 294986.

Total casualties, enemy 14 killed, 2 Javanese recovered, own troops one killed one wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols engaged strong enemy positions in the vicinity of the ILIPEM villages at 815980 and 804983.

Total casualties, enemy 19 killed 1 PW, own 3 killed 3 wounded including 1 native soldier killed 1 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3814 BOUGAINVILLE

CORSAIRS again attacked 17 Army HQ in force. This target has been positively located from AIB reports and photo recce and several buildings were destroyed when the 45 aircraft bombed and strafed the area. 20 CORSAIRS attacked enemy concentrations and bivouacs on the LOBAI RIVER and two huts were seen to be destroyed. 12 CORSAIRS struck enemy defences along the BUIN ROAD from 135335 to 132332 and 13 CORSAIRS bombed enemy defences WEST of the OAMAI RIVER near SHISHIGATERO.

3815 NEW IRELAND

6 MITCHELLS attacked a radar station at CAPE ST GEORGE.

3816 NEW BRITAIN

Japanese stores and dumps on the GAZELLE PENINSULA were damaged yesterday when 6 VENTURAS bombed PRAED POINT. 6 MITCHELLS bombed RABAUL town and 9 bombed VUNAKANAU. A bivouac area at KABAGADA was attacked by 9 MITCHELLS and 2 CORSAIRS on patrol destroyed two barges loaded with fuel drums and killed 4 Japs in WEBER HARBOUR. A fuel dump at MALIBUNGA was burnt when CORSAIRS bombed the area and resultant fires produced smoke to 2,000 ft. Three Japs were killed, one truck destroyed and two additional MT damaged in the strike. The Jap defensive position and bivouac area at JAMMER BAY were bombed and strafed by 8 CORSAIRS and 16 1,000 lb bombs hit the target area. The patrol from D Coy 11 Aust Inf Bn at 750521 observed the strike and reported good coverage.

3817 NEW GUINEA

30 BEAUFORTS made their second strike on TIMBERED KNOLL at 814013 and preliminary reports indicate a satisfactory mission.

PHOTO COVERAGES

NEW GUINEA

3818

Title	:	MAPRIK WEST
Mission	:	MDG 59
Serial Nos.	:	Run 1 287 - 315, Run 2 229 - 286, Run 3 230 - 258, Run 4 200 - 227, Run 5 187 - 199, Run 6 164 - 186, Run 7 137 - 163. Run 5A 316-342
Co-ords	:	(1) 673049, 673021, 940041, 940013. (2) 659036, 658011, 930030, 928005. (3) 668021, 668995, 939015, 939991. (4) 662010, 661984, 929999, 928972. (5) 669992, 668963, 815987, 815958. (5A)668991, 668962, 941991, 991962. (6) 655975, 652951, 900959, 899932. (7) 643960, 641934, 922946, 921920.
RF	:	1:13000
Sqn	:	15 Sqn
Date	:	26 May 45.
Maps	:	MAPRIK WEST - MAPRIK EAST 1st Prov
Type	:	K17 Vertical
Quality	:	Good

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3819 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

3820 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3821 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3822 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3823 BALIKPAPAN

Active patrolling continues and a patrol contact was reported at 431637.

3824 BRUNEI LABUAN

2/15 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol to DURIEN 2830 thence NORTH and along the coast to PANGGAL reports no movement seen.

at 590317.

2/32 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol was ambushed

389912.

2/43 Aust Inf Bn contacted the enemy at

enemy 6 killed 1 PW.

Casualties NW BORNEO for 24 hours to 142400I

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
17 Jul 45.

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2 Aust Corps	4
5 Aust Div	
6 Aust Div	
8 Aust Inf Bde	
2 Aust AL Group	
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2 Aust Comd AL Sec	
6 Aust Comd AL Sec	
7 Aust Comd AL Sec (Tac R)	3
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16 Aust Sqn AL Sec	
22 Aust Sqn AL Sec	
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Det RNZ Air Task Force JACQUINOT	
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SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 275
(Compiled from infm to 180900K)

GENERAL

3825 USE OF RADAR EQUIPMENT BY CRTC B.24 AIRCRAFT

A report of particular interest from 38 Aust Sqn AL Sec on the employment of radar during a blind bombing and a photo mission by a CRTC B.24 aircraft is set out below.

"During Jun 45, two missions of special interest were flown by a LIBERATOR of this command. This aircraft was completely equipped with RADAR instruments as now used in the CHINA BURMA INDIA and PHILIPPINES theatres, operated for the first time in NEW GUINEA and NEW BRITAIN.

Only limited information is available at this command for reasons of security.

The B.24 was equipped with a Low Altitude Radar Bomb Set, a High Altitude Radar Bomb Set, a Loran Navigation Set, a Radar Altimeter, and a Radar Jamming Set (Enemy), in addition to the usual bomb sights, etc. It is stated that the Radar equipment is an adaptation of early British radio location inventions, as used for locating enemy aircraft from the ground and later fitted to night fighters and bombers. Some of the equipment under discussion was of English manufacture. All US night fighters and lead aircraft of all heavy bomber formations now operating from the PHILIPPINES theatre are fully Radar equipped. Total weight of the gear is approx 1,000 lbs.

Radar equipment is operated by a Radar Navigator Bombardier who observes natural features such as coastlines, rivers lakes, mountains, contours etc. in addition to towns, ships, aircraft formations and even clouds, which are depicted on a screen in the aircraft. This screen gives the same picture in cloudy weather or at night as it does in clear weather. Bombs are salvoed by the Radar Navigator Bombardier when the target itself, or its location in relation to natural features, is revealed on the screen. There are on the screen four settings which, in effect, focus the image. The 5-mile setting is used for bombing runs, as it gives a sharper picture, and the 25-, 50- and 100-mile settings are used for long-range identification. The sets used operate through an azimuth of 360 deg, and can be depressed or elevated 20 deg above or below the horizontal. Its maximum range is 100 miles, but it is considered accurate up to 50 miles. In certain circumstances Radar equipment is used to bring about greater accuracy when normal bomb-sights are used.

During the early part of Jun 45, the Radar-equipped B.24 flew a photo mission of the entire coast of GAZELLE PENINSULA (NEW BRITAIN), and the use of the instruments enabled the plotted runs to be made accurately in the minimum time, and obviated the necessity of making subsequent runs to cover areas missed on the initial ones, as usually happens when photo missions are flown by ordinary methods.

On 26 Jun 45, 9 LIBERATORS with the Radar-equipped aircraft in the lead, bombed Jap positions on the SOUTH bank of the SEPIK RIVER opposite the mouth of the SCREW RIVER at A5346 (AMBUNTI STRAT Map). Strike aircraft bombed from 9,000 ft through 7 tenths cumulus down to 4,000 ft and with two exceptions (caused by a mechanical defect) all bombs hit the target, starting fires and destroying at least two huts. Without Radar, this target could not have been hit from normal heavy bombing altitude. It should be borne in mind, however, that a high standard of map reading and target identification is necessary to achieve the foregoing and similar excellent results - Radar alone cannot do it.

This report has been compiled from information obtained from an interrogation, within certain prescribed limits, of two Radar Navigator Bombardiers who operated the equipment on each of the two missions described above and has been edited by them before being put into its present form.

Air crews who have operated this equipment in actual operations consider it far in advance of earlier bombing methods, and quote numerous instances from their own experiences in the PHILIPPINES theatre to substantiate this opinion."

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3826 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Bn area was shelled during the night 16/17 Jul. There were minor engagements forward of the river, 2 Japs were killed and 2 wounded at 116344 and a further 9 Japs were killed at 106325.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols were active in the Bn area, 14 enemy were engaged at 115327 4 of whom were killed and a further 10 were located to the SOUTH.

24 Aust Inf Bn. One of our patrols was ambushed by enemy of unknown strength in the vicinity of URAI 053387.

3827 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Our arty again harassed CAMERONS HILL on night 16/17 Jul and a patrol from C Coy killed 3 Japs including an officer to the NORTH of WEARNES HILL at 694184.

AIB reports the Japs have evacuated the whole KOBUAN area and four guns were removed by submarine at night from RANKAMA 228916. During the retreat partisans killed 22 Japs and much equipment and several boxes of documents have been captured.

NEW BRITAIN

3828 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. C Coy plus NGIB is now returning to MORUPA and has reached 623527.

2/2 Aust Cdo Sqn. An advance party is now moving to establish a cross island patrol base in the vicinity of the ford at 473553.

NEW GUINEA

3829 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol SOUTH of THE BLOT to WEWAU 288992 killed 13 enemy in a sharp engagement.

Total casualties enemy 30 killed 1 PW, own 2 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. The village at 806997 is now clear but the enemy still occupy AHWIL 804983.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. After an accurate strike by BEAUFORTS a platoon attacked the enemy position at 814013 but were forced to withdraw in face of heavy HMG and LMG fire.

Native reports. Native police patrol killed 18 enemy in the WIHUN area.

OWN AIROPS

3830 BOUGAINVILLE

19 CORSAIRS bombed large enemy concentrations adjacent to the main track from ULA to KARA airstrip in the area 2739 and 24 CORSAIRS in support of our ground troops bombed and strafed enemy pill boxes and gun positions in C Coy 15 Aust Inf Bn area near the junction of the MIVO and WAPIAI RIVERS 1134.

3831 NEW IRELAND

9 MITCHELLS bombed AA positions at KAVIENG and a CORSAIR patrol on armed reconnaissance destroyed six huts at NAMATANAI.

3832 NEW BRITAIN

12 MITCHELLS bombed stores and bivouacs in the vicinity of VUNAKANAU and large fires were started with smoke rising to 1000 ft. 6 VENTURAS and 2 CORSAIRS bombed supply and personnel areas which had previously been located by Tac R at MT VARZIN. Four huts were destroyed and two damaged. 8 CORSAIRS carrying out armed patrols in the MOKURAPAU PLANTATION and KABANGA BAY area destroyed a large building which burnt furiously, two petrol loaded trucks, two additional MT and killed 10 Japs.

3833 NEW GUINEA

9 BEAUFORTS destroyed 12 huts when they attacked MALABIEN 844961 and 21 BEAUFORTS supported 2/6 Aust Inf Bn when they attacked enemy positions at 814013. Pilots reported the whole of the ridge and northern slopes well blasted.

AIR FORCE BOMBLINES

3834 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

3835 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3836 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3837 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3838 BALIKPAPAN

2/16 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols are in contact at 658699 and 670700.

27 Aust Inf Bn. Two coys have now reached AMBORAWANG.

2/9 Aust Inf Bn. Troops engaged 40 enemy in launch and prahus at 389688.

Casualties for period 24 hours to 162400I, enemy 58 killed, own troops to 160600I 2 killed 4 wounded.

G(Air)
18 Jul 45.

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 274.

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5 Aust Div	
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1 Aust Comd AL Sec	
2 Aust Comd AL Sec	
6 Aust Comd AL Sec	
7 Aust Comd AL Sec	
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16 Aust Sqn AL Sec	
22 Aust Sqn AL Sec	
32 Aust Sqn AL Sec	
33 Aust Sqn AL Sec	
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WD

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 276
(Compiled from infm to 190900K)

GENERAL

3839 HEAVY BOMBER SUPPORT

The following description of the timing of air targets for heavy bombers in relation to the ground battle has been extracted from a "SHAEF THEATER LESSON" dealing with use of heavy bombers in a tactical role.

"In most cases the heavy bombing effort has been timed immediately prior to, or simultaneously with, the commencement of the land attack. There have been several cases where heavy opposition has been met in areas a mile or two from the start line, which have been bombed simultaneously with the launching of the ground assault. To obtain the best from heavy air support, it is essential to follow up the bombing quickly and by so doing to deny to the enemy any opportunity for evacuating the area and reforming at a position in the rear of it, or even reforming within or on the fringes of the bombed area.

There may on occasion be advantages in arranging the heavy bombing just before last light, when the ground attack is timed for first light on the following morning, assuming the night to be a short one. This system of timing, when used in conjunction with the isolation of the enemy forward troops, cuts them off from their lines of supply during the night, and makes it very difficult for them to reorganise and take necessary preparatory measures to meet the oncoming attack.

It would be greatly desirable, if it were possible, to arrange the bombing of different target areas so that the air attacks coincided in time as closely as possible with the approach of ground forces to the bombed areas."

NOTE: At the conclusion of heavy bombing the Tactical Air Forces assist in the ensuing advance and in maintaining the momentum of the attack.

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3840 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. 25/30 Japs were observed moving NORTH along the river from 122344. A patrol was ambushed by 20/30 Japs in the SHISHIGATERO area. Enemy casualties were 2 killed 2 wounded.

47 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol killed 6 and wounded 2 of a party of 20/30 Japs at 172366, our casualties 1 wounded.

ANGAU patrol reports approx 60 Japs in the area 349939.

24 Aust Inf Bn. A small enemy party moving NORTH was sighted at 079402 and 20 lean to shelters were found at 040386 which were estimated to have been occupied by 150 Japs on night 17/18 Jul.

AIB reports that the recce of KEKERE at 480710 found Jap labourer's houses and small outposts abandoned after the naval shelling. A recce to TOIMONAPU found a large camp

approx 485670.

NEW BRITAIN

3841 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. C Coy was relieved by D Coy 28 Aust Inf Bn and D Coy was relieved by A Coy 28 Aust Inf Bn.

3842 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy, HQ and one pl are now established at 299568.

NEW GUINEA

3843 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops engaged strong enemy position at ST PATRIK 296975 killing 5 Japs. Other patrols in the area killed 4 Japs and destroyed 6 new huts at 292000.

Dispositions: HQ 2/4 Aust Inf Bn 303006, HQ 2/8 Aust Inf Bn 302988, one bty 25 prs in position SAURI 288038.

Total casualties enemy 13 killed own 2 killed 4 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops occupied the SOUTH end of ILIPEM 2 815979 and Bn HQ is now established at 800978.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Following accurate air strike 17 Jul our troops eventually captured the strong position at 814013 - para 3829 refers.

2 NGIB. Patrols killed 7 Japs at 719883 and engaged a party of 30 Japs at 790885.

Total casualties enemy 12 killed.

3844 SEA

16 Jul. Two MLs engaged targets at MURIK, KAUP, CAPE GIRGIR and moved $\frac{3}{4}$ mile up the mouth of the SEPIK RIVER. No movement was seen.

OWN AIROPS

3845 BOUGAINVILLE

20 CORSAIRS in a raid on a group of huts at 322436 destroyed 4 and 12 CORSAIRS bombed a suspected Jap HQ area at NUMA NUMA.

3846 NEW IRELAND

CORSAIRS on patrol destroyed 8 huts at LELET.

3847 NEW BRITAIN

5 VENTURAS and 2 CORSAIRS bombed MT park and dumps at WAT WAT and destroyed 7 buildings.

3848 NEW GUINEA

2 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed the Jap occupied village of KARANGKARA 328576 where 60 Japs were reported to be occupying the SOUTH side of the village. 19 BEAUFORTS obtained only fair coverage when bombing defensive position on ridge 295977 and 18 BEAUFORTS accurately attacked an enemy position NORTH of ULUNKOHOITU at

815002.

Our troops report that many Japs are believed to have been buried as a result of the accurate BEAUFORT strike on the enemy position 814013 on 17 Jul.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3849 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3850 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3851 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3852 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3853 BALIKPAPAN

There were several clashes throughout the day which resulted in enemy casualties to 172400I 54 killed 5 estimated additional dead.

3854 BRUNEI - LABUAN

2/32 Aust Inf Bn, reached the damaged tunnel at 626359.

Casualties NW BORNEO to 162400I enemy 5 killed 1 PW.

3855 TARAKAN

Enemy casualties to 172400I 25 killed 1 estimated additional dead, 10 PW.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
19 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

wd

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 277
(Compiled from infm to 200900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3856 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. There has been a general regrouping of Bns along the front and the new dispositions follow.

24 Aust Inf Bn is now established at 089403

57/60 Aust Inf Bn. B Coy 998392.

15 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ 105333, A Coy 104332, B Coy 107341, C Coy 108337, D Coy 106333.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ 081340, A Coy 083338, B Coy 098332, C Coy 081339, D Coy 085335.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ 075349, A Coy 077348, B Coy 078346 C Coy 068352, D Coy 071350.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ 059361, A Coy 100364, B Coy 089362, C Coy 100367, D Coy 055360.

The MIVO, MOBIAI and TOHODO RIVERS are in flood. The MIVO is estimated to be running at 12 knots and the MOBIAI is impassable with a depth of 7 ft at the BUIN ROAD.

AIB reports in the TOIBANAPU PLANTATION area there are approx 50 Japs at 515625. Patrol also reports enemy WEST of ANGARO at approx 452606. A European patrol attacked Jap camp on the TAURAUA RIVER at 485670 and at least 18 Japs were killed and two houses destroyed.

3857 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A Coy are now located in the BURITSIOTORARA area at 687245 and B Coy have returned to the Bn HQ area which is now located at 691137. A pl is now occupying the enemy positions which were captured on CAMERONS HILL at 694185 and report that the enemy is in a position some 400 yds to the NORTH.

3858 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ is now located at 287685.

Following a bombardment of the enemy gun position on SOHANA by HMAS DIAMENTINA the enemy returned fire. Further enemy shelling was troublesome on the SORAKEN PENINSULA from SOHANA but was eventually silenced by accurate shelling from our Hvy AA Bty.

NEW BRITAIN

3859 WIDE BAY

2/2 Cav Cdo Sqn. C Tp has now returned from patrol to 478457.

3860 OPEN BAY

37 Aust Inf Bn. Outpost at the POTITI RIVER mouth 268600 reports having sighted a probable barge off LAULI

on a southward course and which disappeared in the vicinity of the MATALAILI RIVER.

AIB patrol estimated that approx 20 Japs and boys moved by the tracks which followed the POTAITI RIVER SW and attempts are being made to intercept them.

NEW GUINEA

3861 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 35 Aust Inf Bn. A composite patrol including 2/3 Machine Gun Bn killed 5 Japs SOUTH of SOARIN at 402997 and engaged a well prepared position manned by 20/30 Japs further to the SOUTH.

Total casualties, enemy 5 killed.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/6 Aust Inf Bn. After accurate air strike our troops occupied a position NORTH of ULUNKOHOITU containing 70 weapon pits at 815003 and ULUNKOHOITU ridge 813014 to 818990 is clear.

2 NGIB. Our troops engaged strong enemy position at OANIARU 778940 killing 5 Japs. Patrols engaged 30/40 Japs at 846872 and 824887 and 9 Japs were killed in the GWALIP area 8292.

Natives report HQ ASADA FORCE and 100 Japs are located at KARARAU 0223.

Total casualties, enemy 15 killed 2 PW own 1 killed 2 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3862 NEW IRELAND

9 MITCHELLS dropped 72 1000 lb bombs on secondary target PANAPAI bivouac areas and 14 MITCHELLS also bombed secondary targets of AA positions and bivouacs at KAVIENG. All results were obscured due to cloud.

3863 NEW GUINEA

26 BEAUFORTS supported 2/6 Aust Inf Bn when they accurately bombed and strafed enemy defensive positions WEST of ILIPEM villages at 804983. The target area was devastated and only two huts were left standing. 9 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed approx 50 enemy and armed KANAKAS along a ridge near OANIRU village 778940 which had been engaged previously by NGIB.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3864 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3865 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3866 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3867 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3868 BALIKPAPAN

2/17 Aust Inf Bn cleared the forward slopes of the enemy position 714712.

2/27 Aust Inf Bn. Two Coys entered SAMBODJA against light opposition and are patrolling to the NORTH.

Enemy casualties to 182400I 27 killed 2 PW, own troops to 180600I 2 killed 7 wounded.

3869 BRUNEI

2/17 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol from MARUDI 8755 to RIDAN ambushed 40 enemy and patrols occupied BAKONG.

3870 TARAKAN

Enemy casualties to 182400I 19 killed 2 estimated additional dead 16 PW, own troops to 180600I 1 killed 1 wounded.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
20 Jul 45

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WD

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 278
(Compiled from infm to 210900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3871 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy movement is reported in the area NW of URAI at 028396.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Small party of Japs were sighted NORTH of the MOBIAI RIVER ford.

15 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged 30 Japs armed with HMG and LMGs WEST of SHISHIGATERO at 106324. Three enemy were killed, our casualties 1 killed 2 wounded.

42 Aust Inf Bn report signs of 30 Japs having moved WEST from 081326 and small arms and mortar fire fell between A and C Coys.

Adv HQ 3 Aust Div has now moved forward to the HARI RIVER and is located at 993387.

3872 CENTRAL SECTOR

7 Aust Inf Bn report enemy movement on the NUMA NUMA trail towards 700193.

3873 NORTHERN SECTOR

8 Aust Inf Bn. Tactical HQ has been established at 287695 with A Coy at 287697. Our troops were ambushed to the EAST of BUOI PLANTATION and 1 of our own troops was killed and 3 wounded.

HMAS DIAMANTINA successfully bombarded gun position and a concentration of huts at SORUM and EAST coast of BUKA ISLAND. A 75 mm and possible 150 mm returned fire from the EAST of BUKA PASSAGE at 189836.

NEW GUINEA

3874 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 8 Aust Inf Bde. The composite patrol has now reported killing 7 Japs at 401997.

2/3 Aust MG Bn is now located on WEWAK POINT at 321085.

Total casualties enemy 8 killed own 2 killed 5 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Following excellent air strike our troops captured Jap position at 806984. Positions NORTH of the WIHIBI CREEK area 8298 were engaged by a patrol.

2 NGIB. Enemy position at AONIARU was captured - para 3861 refers - and a village EAST of GWALIP was also taken and the enemy withdrew to the NE.

Total casualties enemy 28 killed.

OWN AIROPS

3875 NEW IRELAND

CORSAIR patrols destroyed two huts at BALIS killed personnel at PINUS and a truck at KARU was probably destroyed.

3876 NEW GUINEA

17 BEAUFORTS supporting 2/5 Aust Inf Bn devastated a Jap occupied villages in the vicinity of 815982. 24 huts were destroyed. 9 BEAUFORTS accurately bombed and strafed enemy positions at KWAM-BIKUM 783890. 6 huts were destroyed. 3 BEAUFORTS carrying out armed recce of the SEPIK area attacked the suspected ASADA FORCE HQ at KARARAU 0223.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3877 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3878 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3879 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3880 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No. 236.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3881 BALIKPAPAN

21 Aust Inf Bde carried out active patrolling in the SAMBODJA MANGGAR area.

2/9 Aust Inf Bn encountered enemy position at SELODANG 352663 and SELIHBOE 339679.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 72 killed 1 PW own troops 8 killed 16 wounded.

3882 BRUNEI

2/28 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy were contacted at 435886.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 5 killed 10 estimated additional dead 1 PW, own troops 5 killed 2 wounded 1 missing.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
21 Jul 45.

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

W/D

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN NO 279
(Compiled from infm to 220900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3883 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols to the WEST covering our right flank contacted approximately 50 Japs in prepared position EAST of the HARI RIVER. Four Japs killed, 4 wounded.

15 Aust Inf Bn. Active patrols engaged nine Japs on the eastern banks of MIVO RIVER 106324 and a further party in the vicinity of D Coy's lines. Our ration train was ambushed along the BUIN ROAD 090334. Five Japs killed, 2 wounded.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Only minor skirmishes are reported by our patrols SOUTH of BUIN ROAD at 098323 and adjacent to B Coy area.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Report evidence of enemy movement NORTH of BUIN ROAD 070360.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols attacked a strong enemy party approximately 40/50 strong WEST of OGORATA RIVER 027394. Enemy casualties 2 killed

AIB reports. SETON. Patrol attacked Jap camp at approximately 475716 killing 32 Japs, destroying 6 and strafing 8 houses. Casualties in houses strafed not known but believed heavy as many sleeping in them due to heavy rain. Fire was returned from beach by rifles and HMG and patrol had 1 native soldier slightly wounded. 200 Japs estimated in area. At 200915Z aircraft heard east of base camp 205755, which Corps advises could not have been Allied.

3884 NORTHERN SECTOR

8 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy active approximately ½ mile EAST Bn HQ sprung booby traps night 20/21 Jul.

NEW GUINEA

3885 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn continued their advance along the HAMBRAURI track and captured ST PATRICK B296975 against light opposition. Fighting patrols are exploiting further to the SOUTH.

8 Aust Inf Bde report agressive patrols continue actively, but no contacts reported.

2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt. RPC patrols encountered a small party of Japs approximately 1½ miles SOUTH of SUIK at A078793. Three Japs were killed.

Total casualties NOT previously reported enemy 11 killed, own 3 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Well prepared enemy defensive positions were engaged by our active patrols at A8198 and A8298 approximately 1½ miles SOUTH of ULUNKOHOITU and later the track junction at A811985 was occupied.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy positions were located by our patrols in the vicinity of NIUMOGIL V8108 and V8100 - A8199.

2 NGIB. Following an excellent airstrike native troops attacked and killed 13 Japs in prepared positions at KWAMBIKUM A984883. Further patrols cleared the areas WINGAI A834923, WITABI A844855 and killed 9 Japs approximately 1½ miles SW of WINGAI at A8292.

Total casualties NOT previously reported enemy 28 killed 1 PW, own 1 killed 5 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3886 BOUGAINVILLE.

18 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed defensive positions from 128320 to 130330 on ROBIKAI RIVER, results were unobserved. 18 CORSAIRS bombed defensive and gun positions at AKU from 181324 to 187324, results were unobserved. 42 CORSAIRS attacked personnel areas at KIETA from 237912 to 241909, 220941 and 223913 causing one large explosion at 223913.

3887 NEW IRELAND

5 MITCHELLS bombed a secondary target at PANAPAI with unobserved results.

3888 NEW BRITAIN

4 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas at VUNAKANAU, NO damage inflicted. 9 MITCHELLS bombed a store and tunnel entrances at RABAUL, all bombs fell in the target area. 4 CORSAIRS bombed a stores area at LIGUAN with results, 3 huts destroyed and one tunnel caved in.

3889 NEW GUINEA

18 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed an enemy defensive position at A715982 destroying four huts and clearing the area. 2 BEAUFORTS on an armed recce bombed YARANGAI at A7243 where 1 hut was destroyed. At CHAUACHE A7852 canoes were strafed and hit on the SEPIK RIVER.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3890 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No 261.

3891 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No 94.

3892 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No 260.

3893 NEW GUINEA - see para 3190 ALO Bulletin No 236.

A.S. Millard
Lt-Col
GS

G (Air)
22 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No 275.

WAR DIARY

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 280
(Compiled from infm to 230900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3894 SOUTHERN SECTOR

Flooding continues in the area. The OGORATA and MOBIAI RIVERS are still impassable but the MIVO has subsided. Considerable damage has been caused by floods to bridges and roads from the PURIATA to the HONGORAI.

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. There was one minor contact in the Bn area and 1 Jap was killed and 1 wounded PW taken.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols had four contacts in the area forward of the MIVO RIVER from 122366 to 094320 and an enemy position was located one mile SOUTH of the BUIN ROAD at 094320. Enemy casualties were 4 killed 3 wounded, own 4 wounded.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacts have been reported to the WEST of the MIVO and at ASTILLS CROSSING. Enemy casualties 2 killed 2 wounded 3 found dead.

RAFFLES FORCE. The native compound was swept away by floods, 20 natives were drowned and equipment and ammunition lost.

3895 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. PIB patrol engaged Jap listening post situated between 693187 and CHARLIE CREEK killing 7 Japs. CHARLIE CREEK 687192 to 687175.

3896 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. On night 21/22 Jul the enemy were active around Bn Tactical HQ at 287695. Two Japs were killed in the BUOI PLANTATION at 278781.

NEW BRITAIN

3897 WIDE BAY

28 Aust Inf Bn. A platoon patrol along the coastal track to the UMAMITLI RIVER thence NE report parties of Japs at 793523 and 793518.

3898 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. Intermittent explosions were heard during the morning in the vicinity of COOPERS CLEARING.

NEW GUINEA

3899 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 19 Aust Inf Bde. Our troops captured HADFRAURI 2 289968 against light opposition only. A patrol move cleared a pocket of Japs to the SOUTH and another patrol is probing WEST. An additional 23 Japs were killed during the capture of ST PATRICK - para 3885 refers.

30 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged a party of 20/30 Japs SOUTH of MT SHIBURANGU at 323998 and the action is continuing.

35 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol located a workshop site containing tools and equipment WEST of BRANDI PLANTATION along the coastal road.

Total casualties enemy 31 killed 1 PW.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn quietly occupied ILIPEM corrected map reference 814981 and a standing patrol has been established to the NORTH at 815986.

2/1 Aust Tk A Regt. A patrol base has been established at 651765.

2 NGIB. Our troops occupied the southern end of TAIGERHI 1 village 790885 killing 6 Japs and ambushed a further party at AONIARU 778940 killing 7. Patrols report parties of 30 Japs to be in the areas of TARIOR 782894 and MANGUL 810765.

Total casualties enemy 23 killed, own 4 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3900 BOUGAINVILLE

20 CORSAIRS destroyed several huts when they attacked a Jap occupied area MUGUABO. 20 CORSAIRS attacked the AKU defences.

3901 NEW GUINEA

22 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed an enemy position on TIMBERED KNOLL NORTH of ULUNKOHOITU 8015 and 10 BEAUFORTS attacked TAIGERHI destroying at least 20 buildings. 3 BEAUFORTS on armed recce attacked the villages of KOROGO 824588 PALIMBII 8941 and MALINGAI 8839.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3902 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3903 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3904 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3905 NEW GUINEA

New Airforce bombline as from 240600K. NO attack NORTH or WEST of a line from 521995 SOUTH and WEST along LETAK CREEK to 485998 to HARIGENA 435947 across the high beature 392941 thence to PASSAM 328935 to junction NAGUM and SILIN RIVERS 263910 NW along NAGUM RIVER to 064013 to MT TURU 019001 SOUTH to head waters tributary of TRUMBUM RIVER in kunai patch 013967 SOUTH along the tributary to river junction 009000 (9788 strat map) thence SOUTH along TRUMBUM and ATILEM RIVERS to SEPIK RIVER and NO attack SOUTH of a line five miles SOUTH of the SEPIK RIVER from ATILEM RIVER junction to CAPE GIRGIR. All islands to the NORTH excluding VOILEO and RABOIN to be in bombing area.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3906 BALIKPAPAN

2/14 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol reached a point inland 695762 without enemy contact but when moving down the TEAPO RIVER contacted the enemy at 663736.

2/25 Aust Inf Bn. Several contacts were made with the enemy in the vicinity of the road at 6368.

Total casualties to 212400I enemy 11 killed 2 estimated additional dead 5 PW, own troops to 210600I 12 killed 4 wounded.

3907 BRUNEI

2/15 Aust Inf Bn. One Coy moved from LIMBANG to BANGAR.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn and 2/32 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols located parties of Japs at 444799 and 694283.

Total casualties to 202400I enemy 32 killed.

3908 TARAKAN

Enemy casualties to 212400I 17 killed 1 PW.

/a Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
23 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

W.D

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 281
(Compiled from infm to 240900K)

GENERAL

3909 AIR OPERATIONS AGAINST JAPANESE FIELD DEFENCES

A LHQ report compiled after recent operations in SWPA concerning the destruction by air attack of Japanese field defences is of particular interest to GSOs Air and ALOs.

"To destroy Japanese field defences by air action it is necessary to:-

(a) Obtain a direct hit or near miss with a bomb of a size sufficient to collapse the roof and/or walls of the defensive position; or

(b) introduce into the field work, sufficient of the contents of the fire bomb to incinerate or suffocate the occupants and/or set alight the structure.

Anti personnel fragmentation and light bombs of any nature are not capable of producing these results. 1,000 lb or larger bombs, if delivered with sufficient accuracy will fulfil the requirements of (a) above. Fire bombs of large capacity, if directed with sufficient accuracy, will fulfil the requirements of (b) above.

Once a single defensive work has been accurately located, its destruction, whether by HE or fire bomb, can best be accomplished by divebombing with fighter/bomber aircraft. In the case of a defensive position made up of a series of defensive works, individual dive bombing of each defensive work may not be practicable. In this case, accurate level pattern bombing will produce more satisfactory results.

In either case the best results will be obtained if the jungle over the target is cleared. If fire bombs are to be used, jungle must be cleared so that bombs will reach and burn at ground level, and not be dissipated at tree-top height. Also the clearing of jungle in the defensive area assists ground troops by improving fields of fire to some extent in the areas into which ground troops will have to move on completion of the air strike to mop up and consolidate.

The success of air action against field defences is entirely dependent on the accuracy with which targets can be indicated. The basis of accurate target indication depends on:-

(a) accurate briefing of aircrew by an Air Liaison Officer who is fully in the picture on the detailed tactical situation on the ground and the general conditions which appertain adjacent to the target area;

(b) efficient ground/air communications;

(c) the use of smoke;

(d) where applicable, the employment of fluorescent panels to mark the location of forward troops, and the erection of lead-in markers to assist in the approach to the target.

Where the proximity of airfields from which supporting aircraft are operating makes it possible, personal liaison between ground and air forces concerned produces most successful results. This can be accomplished by:-

(a) an officer of the ground forces accompanying the flight commander on a bombing mission having previously made a ground reconnaissance of the target area;

(b) by aircrew personnel making a ground reconnaissance of the target area;

(c) by the Air Liaison Officer attached to the Air Force unit carrying out a ground reconnaissance and then flying on a bombing mission.

Coloured smoke is the most satisfactory method of target indication. Disadvantages of artillery smoke are its limited range, and the warning given to the enemy. The former can be overcome to a limited degree by the employment of a smoke indicator bomb dropped from an aircraft, the aircrew of which have been specially briefed in the location of the target and have carried out both ground and air reconnaissance. The latter can be overcome to a certain degree by effective ground/air communications and calling for smoke at the last possible moment.

To summarize, the most successful method of neutralisation of Japanese field defences by air action is:-

(a) Locate the defences by ground reconnaissance, and if possible, air reconnaissance.

(b) Indicate the target accurately by use of coloured smoke, marker panels, and the assistance of effective ground/air communications. If necessary, light aircraft should be employed as an elevated OP for observation of fire.

(c) Attack the area with heavy bombs of 1,000 lb or larger to clear the jungle around the defensive positions.

(d) If a single defensive work, such as a bunker, is to be destroyed, dive bombing with heavy type bombs should be employed, if a number of defensive positions are being attacked pattern bomb with heavy bomvb with a view to obtaining direct hits or near misses on as many defensive positions as possible. (This may be combined with (c) above.)

(e) Attack with maximum size fire bombs, to burn or suffocate occupants of defensive positions not already destroyed.

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3910 SOUTHERN SECTOR

McKINLA bridge across the PURIATA RIVER has been closed for 48 hours due to flood damage and other repairs are in progress.

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Hostile shelling was reported in the Bn area on night 22/23 Jul. Patrol contacts at 107331 and 108332 resulted in three enemy killed and 1 wounded, own casualties 1 wounded.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Hostile shelling was reported in the Bn area during the night 22/23 Jul.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy activity was observed in the garden at 140369.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Hostile shelling was reported NORTH of the road on night 22/23 Jul.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn. Following accurate shelling enemy vacated the position 028395. Signs of 60 Japs having moved WEST from 018364 on 22 Jul towards the HARI RIVER were observed.

24 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrol engaged 9 Japs in a new position at 028393 resulting in 2 enemy killed.

RAFFLES FORCE. Patrol MERAKA, KUHINU to 108454 report no movement seen. A further patrol made contact at 140422.

PIB. Pl established at 139426.

AIB. Following an air strike on BOGASAGO natives tried to engage Japs but could not approach the enemy position because of the alertness of the remaining Japs dug in under slightly damaged houses. One Jap was killed by a mine on the road NORTH of LAKAUKU 314494 and 1 by a grenade at approx 302475. Approx 80 Japs are reported to be in four huts on NW corner of a garden in the vicinity of 308600. This garden is between two hamlets of the KAUKAUSINA group and the NORTH edge of the road joining the two hamlets. The huts are about 50 yards from the edge of the garden.

3911 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Following arty, mortar and MMG concentration a platoon from C Coy occupied an enemy position at 693187 and contact was again made 200 yards to the NORTH resulting in casualties 1 own wounded.

3912 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Following an air, arty and mortar bombardment a patrol from C Coy cleared and consolidated a position 294706 on COMMO RIDGE against light opposition. A patrol with flame throwers engaged bunkers at 292706 and forced the enemy to withdraw to the WEST. A further patrol made contact with the enemy at 789704 and TFSUI track 291707 resulting in 13 enemy killed and 2 own wounded.

27 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol to 289704 and 291707 report no movement seen. Bn to remain at 304681.

NEW BRITAIN

3913 WIDE BAY

11 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy is now established at 681527 with B Coy at 657518.

28 Aust Inf Bn. A platoon patrol in an ambush position at 758502 contacted approx 45 native refugees who bivouacked the night 23/24 Jul. Natives are being returned to TOL.

NEW GUINEA

3914 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol cleared position at 289967 and killed 10 Japs in the vicinity.

2/6 Cav (Cdo) Regt. RPC seven day patrol to AIN W0008 killed 16 Japs at NABAU 987108 and returned to DAGUA with 92 native refugees.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 27 killed own 1 killed 1 wounded,

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops have now occupied position at 818982.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged strong enemy position at 818015.

NGIB. A patrol reports enemy in strength NORTH of KWAMBIKUM 784883.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 13 killed, own 1 native soldier wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3915 BOUGAINVILLE

23 CORSAIRS bombed 17 Army MT Units [illegible]IKA 358352 to 358354, two trucks were seen to be destroyed. 18 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed gun position and enemy defences AKI 183322 - 183325. 19 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy defensive positions OAMAI RIVER 147316 to 149318 and large columns of smoke were observed in the target area. 12 CORSAIRS bombed gun position and living area NUMA NUMA 786322. 12 CORSAIRS in support 8 Aust Inf Bn in their occupation of COMMO RIDGE bombed and strafed enemy defensive position 292706 - 295706.

3916 NEW BRITAIN

6 CORSAIRS operating from JACQUINOT bombed WAT WAT PLANTATION damaging two tunnels and a further 6 CORSAIRS damaged two tunnels at RALABANG. 5 VENTURAS bombed stores area TOGORO RIVER 990126. 9 MITCHELLS dropped 67 x 250 lb bombs on bivouac area NW RABAUL and 15 MITCHELLS destroyed large fuel dump at KABAGADA.

3917 NEW GUINEA

32 BEAUFORTS attacked enemy concentration at DUNIGI 885003 exploding ammunition dump and destroying 19 buildings and a house TAMBORAN. 5 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed TAIGESHI 791882 and 5 BEAUFORTS bombed KWAMBIKUM 7889 destroying 6 huts. 3 BEAUFORTS on armed recce attacked YENTCHAM 9044 and YARANGAI 7343.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3918 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3919 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3920 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3921 NEW GUINEA - Ref ALO Bulletin No. 280 para 3905 - line 7 delete reference 009000 and substitute 009900.

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3922 BALIKPAPAN

25 Aust Inf Bde. Troops following up general enemy withdrawal from BATOCHAMPAR area.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn. At present situated right of SAMARINDA road with forward elements 641702.

2/25 Aust Inf Bn. At present situated left of SAMARINDA road with forward elements at 630700.

2/6 Aust Cdo Sqn Sqn harassing from flank at 631708 and 628732.

Aircraft destroyed 18 vehicles in the area NORTH of 650788.

Casualties for 24 hours to 222400I enemy 33 killed 18 estimated additional dead own to 220600I 1 killed 6 wounded.

3923 BRUNEI

24 Aust Inf Bde. Patrolling continues.

Natives engaged small enemy party LIMPAQU.

Casualties for 24 hours to 212400I enemy 14 killed. Own casualties during 48 hours to 220600I 3 wounded.

3924 TARAKAN

26 Aust Inf Bde. Patrolling continues.

Casualties enemy to 222400I 2 killed 1 PW own troops to 220600I nil.

H W Watt Maj
for Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
24 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 282
(Compiled from infm to 250900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3925 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Parties of 15/20 Japs and 30/40 Japs were contacted forward of the MIVO RIVER to the NORTH and SOUTH of the BUIN ROAD.

47 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol contact was reported in the area 1039.

HARI. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Three of our own troops were wounded by Jap booby trap in the area 0534.

3926 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols engaged enemy position at 693190 one mile NORTH of the recently captured 15 Pl position. A further patrol contact is reported at NUSISIPOK.

Total casualties enemy 8 killed 5 probables own casualties 1 officer wounded.

3927 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Following an arty and mortar concentration D Coy patrol engaged Jap position in the Bn area, and the patrol withdrew harassed by the enemy. Bn HQ now located at 292678.

Total casualties enemy 7 killed own 2 killed 6 wounded.

NEW BRITAIN

3928 11 Aust Div assumed command in NEWBRITAIN as from 252400K.

NEW GUINEA

3929 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 8 Aust Inf Bde. Our troops killed 5 or 6 Japs SOUTH of the coastal track at 381034.

2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt. Patrol engaged a force of 30/40 Japs in well prepared position at 076183 killing 1.

Total casualties enemy 15 killed own 4 killed 3 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops have continued their advance and have cleared the point 823987.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Native patrols report having killed 11 Japs on the MISUAM RIVER at 8311 and 9 Japs in the CHOLOGON BELAGEI village areas.

2 NGIB. Our troops, supported by BEAUFORTS gained a foot hold on the southern end of AONIARU 778940 but, encountering heavy fire, were forced to withdraw. A fighting patrol engaged a party of 25/30 Japs at 838027.

Total casualties enemy 26 killed, own 2 native soldiers wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3830 BOUGAINVILLE

More than 90 sorties were flown by RNZAF in support of BOUGAINVILLE operations on 24 Jul. 42 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed suspected 6 Div workshop site vicinity MAIKA 3634 and 24 CORSAIRS bombed Jap occupied huts and suspected camp area at MUGUAI destroying three huts. 24 CORSAIRS attacked enemy concentrations at INUS 708466 and a CORSAIR patrol destroyed five buildings which had been located at 378391.

AIB reports now indicate that the attack by 45 CORSAIRS on 16 Jul on 17 Army HQ was highly successful. The area was completely bombed out and no sign of Lt Gen KANDA's dwelling or any other buildings remain.

3831 NEW BRITAIN

9 VENTURAS and 16 CORSAIRS enjoyed a field day when they attacked a recently located stores area in the VUNAPIT PLANTATION at 720215. Sixteen huts, a large fuel dump, 2 trucks and one caterpillar tractor were destroyed in the raid and a further five huts damaged. One of our aircraft was holed by AA.

3832 NEW GUINEA

9 BEAUFORTS struck an enemy position in the ULUNKOHOITU area at 817986 and destroyed 21 huts and started large fires. The Japs retreating along the KABOIBUS track were thoroughly strafed. 21 BEAUFORTS supported 2 NGIB in their attack on enemy defensive positions at 776940. 3 BEAUFORTS on armed reconnaissance destroyed and damaged installations at TAMBANUM 3040, NONGRUMERI 6851, WAMBO 2264 and KAMINDIBIT 0228.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3833 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

3834 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3835 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3836 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No. 280 as amended para 3921 ALO Bulletin No. 281.

Lt Col
for GS

G(Air)
25 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN NO 283
(Compiled from infm to 260900K)

GENERAL

3937. CORSAIR PILOT'S ESCAPE FROM ENEMY TERRITORY

An account of the escape of an RNZAF Corsair pilot who bailed out over enemy held territory in SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE and spent three days in the jungle, is reproduced from the pilot's report, as follows:-

Whilst on a 12 aircraft bombing strike on PIANO - BUIN Road junction on 8 Jul, at 0830 hours the pilot was forced to abandon his Corsair by parachute, south of the target area.

Flying No 3 position in white section, in making his initial run on the target it was found that he had a hung up bomb. Obtaining permission from the Garnet Leader, his No 4 (who had also not dropped his bomb) the pilot made another circuit and started another run on the target. Commencing the run in a fairly shallow dive from 3,500 feet he endeavoured to dislodge the bomb from the rack by rocking the aircraft fore and aft on the way down. This proved unsuccessful and break right from the target area at approximately 1,400 feet was commenced. He was in the act of turning off the bombing switches when the bomb fell off. His height at this time was between 1,100 and 1,200 feet, but the pilot felt the slight concussion when the bomb burst under him on the extreme right of the target area. He continued out to the rendezvous point and after approximately a minute noticed that there was no elevator control and nothing could be done to prevent the nose rising and the air-speed from falling off. The engine was functioning normally and the pilot tried several means, using a combination of throttle, flaps and trims, in an attempt to lower the nose and increase the airspeed, but without success, for the airspeed continued to fall off rapidly. There was not much time to spend in these attempts if he was to abandon the aircraft at a reasonable height, for the aircraft was barely 2,000 feet up at that time, and the risk of spinning at that height could not be taken. When the airspeed dropped to 100 knots the pilot abandoned the aircraft by parachute, dropping straight over the port side.

The 'chute opened immediately the rip-cord was pulled and on the way down the canopy caught in a very large tree, suspending the pilot 20 feet from the ground. He was in such a position that he could not reach the trunk of the tree from which he was suspended. The nearest tree to this, which was almost within reach, was rather frail, but he managed to grasp it by swinging like a pendulum. Freeing himself from the harness, he put his weight on this tree, which immediately broke under him. The pilot landed flat on his back on the marshy ground below. The jungle pack and the nature of the ground no doubt saved him from a broken back.

Immediately he moved away from the scene of descent into some very thick bush and sat down checking his gear, revolver, etc., and also formulating a plan of action. He knew he was well within Japanese territory so decided to make for the MIVO RIVER, which he knew was WEST of him. His intention on reaching the river was to lay low until night-fall and float down the river in his Mae West towards the coast under the cover of darkness and then swim out to sea where he thought he would surely be sighted and picked up. On reaching the EAST bank of the MIVO RIVER after five hours travelling, he found himself a safe hiding place and stayed there from 1400 hours until 0400 hours on 9 Jul. During this time gear was re-checked, revolver cleaned and a tin of emergency rations from the jungle pack opened. He had originally intended when he arrived at this point to start the journey down the river as soon as it grew dark. However, he fell asleep and did not wake until 0400 hours.

Starting down the river at that time, he arrived at a large sand bank on the west side of the MIVO at dawn. He remained hidden behind the sand bank and dried clothes and equipment, deeming it unwise to continue in daylight. Shortly after his arrival, he managed to attract the attention of an Auster aircraft with the signalling mirror. The Auster dropped a note instructing the pilot to continue back up the river in a northerly direction. Then he cancelled this order by dropping an improvised map showing the pilot's position and that of the patrol base and instructing the pilot to stay where he was and keep under cover. The position of the patrol base on the map was almost opposite the position he left, but on the other side of the river. He was also informed by note from the Auster that the patrol was well on its way to his position and that there were a considerable number of Nips between him and the patrol base. Medical supplies and another revolver and ammunition were dropped that morning. From that time and until the patrol reached him on the morning of 17 Jul, he was kept well supplied with food and information as to the patrol's position.

(Extract from RNZAF Intelligence Bulletin No 207 of 19 Jul 45)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3938. SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol crossed MIVO RIVER ford and was engaged by hostile 75 mm. Enemy shelling continued throughout the day. Signs of enemy activity were observed 400 yards EAST of the river crossing. Following an air strike and artillery concentration the enemy vacated a position at 113340. Casualties enemy 2 killed. Our mortars engaged an enemy position 200 yards SOUTH of D Coy.

42 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged 50/60 enemy at 107382. Opposition was met and after withdrawal of our troops the position was engaged by artillery. Casualties enemy 18 killed 9 probable own 3 killed 11 wounded.

24 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged approximately 40 enemy at 023397. This position was later engaged by our artillery.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn. Minor contact was made at 998392.

Engineer trucks were ambushed at 962414 resulting in own casualties 2 killed 1 wounded.

3939. CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. B Coy relieved C Coy at CAMERONS HILL.

PIB. B Coy located at 693186. A patrol contacted enemy at NUSISISPOK killing one.

3940. NORTHERN SECTOR.

RATSUA-RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Reference ALO Bulletin 282 para 3927 casualties amended to read enemy 8 killed 3 probably killed own 3 killed 5 wounded. Patrol observed a strong bunker position at 284705. Contacts were made at 279700 and in C Coy area. Casualties enemy 1 killed 1 probable and 2 found dead. An abandoned position was found at 295707-279699.

27 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol base established at 311777. A patrol engaged 10/12 Japs at 313692 where 1 Jap was killed and 1 wounded. 1 PW surrendered.

AIB Patrol attacked Jap camp at approximately 437766 on 24 Jul; could not obtain results as scouts could not get closer than 150 yds from camp, but target well covered by 2" mortar grenade discharger, LMGs and SMGs. Camp is in a valley between Mission and new Jap garrison. Return fire was the heaviest yet met by patrol. Enemy is demolishing mission house and carrying timbers towards the beach. Considered that there is a large number of enemy there. At 240925Z unidentified ship or submarine seen off KEKERE 680710; at that time appeared stationary; approximately 100/150 feet long; came through KEKERE PASSAGE. Japs at KEKERE lit a fire towards which ship came. Corps unable take objective action night 24 Jul but promised dawn patrol over area. At 241045Z unidentified aircraft reported going SOUTH.

NEW GUINEA

3941. WEWAK.

COASTAL SECTOR. Patrol activity only.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 4 killed 1 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Following excellent air support our troops captured CHUGLUMUN 818986 killing 16 Japs.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols engaged Jap position at V818015 and reported positions covering creek at A819999 and V819001 now clear of enemy.

2 NGIB. Our troops have captured AONAIRU and report enemy withdrawing NORTH and NE. A patrol engaged a well armed party at A830918, 11 Japs were killed.

Two 25 pounders are in position at A778980.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. One coy located at A775975.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 32 killed, own 1 native soldier killed 2 wounded including 1 native soldier.

OWN AIROPS

3942. BOUGAINVILLE.

2C CORSAIRS attacked enemy concentrations and a reported gun position at 4867 in the TOIMANAPU area. 44 CORSAIRS bombed engineer unit camp at MAIKA destroying 17 buildings and damaging a further two. 24 CORSAIRS bombed defensive positions on the MIVO RIVER at 112341.

3943. NEW GUINEA

8 BEAUFORTS bombed enemy positions at DALIMUG 823989. Low cloud hampered accurate bombing and only 4 sticks hit the target, the remainder overshooting. 6 BEAUFORTS unable to bomb their primary target attacked KARARAU 0232 destroying 12 huts and some canoes on the river bank. 3 BEAUFORTS destroyed 10 huts at KAMINDIBIT. 1 BEAUFORT on armed recce destroyed 3 canoes and one building at KRINJAMBI 5440.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3944. BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No 261.

3945. NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No 94.

3946. NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No 260.

3947. NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No 280 (as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3948. BALIKPAPAN

2/27 Aust Inf Bn. Platoon reached 672791.

2/14 and 2/16 Aust Inf Bns. Now concentrated at MANGGAR.

2/6 Aust Cdo Sqn. Troops contacted enemy at 6174.

Casualties - Enemy for 24 hours to 232400I 1 PW. Own troops to 230600I, 3 killed 5 wounded.

3949. BRUNEI

9 Aust Div. No contacts reported.

3950. TARAKAN

Enemy casualties to 232400I 5 killed 12 PW.

H W Wattmaj
for Lt Col
GS

G (Air)
26 Jul 45.

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No 275.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 284.
(Compiled from infm to 270900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3951 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol EAST of the MIVO engaged an enemy position on the EAST bank of the WAPIAI RIVER at 118343 and ambushed a party of Japs on the WEST bank at 127347. Enemy casualties 9 killed 5 wounded.

42 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol base has been established on the MIVO RIVER on the track NE of SHISHIGATERO at 124328.

MOBIAI RIVER. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacted 30 Japs armed with three LMGs on the WEST bank of the river at 077359 and forced the enemy to withdraw. Casualties enemy 2 killed 2 wounded.

URAI. 24 Aust Inf Bn. A party of 150 Japs were believed to have bivouacked at 054392 on night 24/25 Jul.

AIB patrol with partisans threw grenades into Jap huts NW of KOROMIRA at 428768 killing nine. Natives report enemy appear to be evacuating CHINATOWN 265923 and aircraft have been heard every night except one during the past week patrolling KIETA area. Information regarding this patrol is conflicting but it would appear that the patrol lasts from 2200 hours until after midnight and it is considered that the Japs are evacuating by barge to the NORTH as barges are often heard working in KIETA harbour but are not heard going SOUTH. Other reliable natives report that they have heard aircraft coming from BUIN and returning there later.

3952 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol was engaged by heavy Jap fire at NUSISIPOK. Casualties enemy 1 killed own 1 killed 3 wounded.

3953 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy position of unknown strength has been located to the NORTH of C and D Coy positions at 291710.

27 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol clashes resulted in casualites enemy 2 killed own 1 killed 2 wounded.

NEW GUINEA

3954 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt. A patrol to KARASAU ISLAND captured 3 Japs.

ANGAU reports natives WAINJO area 0307 are hostile and well organised by Japs.

Total casualties enemy 3 killed 5 PW, own 2 wounded 1 police boy killed.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops engaged well prepared position occupied by 20/30 Japs at DALIKUG 802952 killing 8. Bn HQ is now established at 815980.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol reports enemy movement in the area NORTH of the KABOIBUS villages at 834008. Native patrol to WHIUN 8908 reports having killed 24 Japs of which 10 including 1 Lt Col have been confirmed by our troops. The MAPRIK YAMIL ROAD is now jeepable to 775986.

2/1 Tk A Regt. 2 Bty patrols contacted enemy of unknown strength at JAMA 1 613640 JAMA 2 653636 and BURUI 653588.

2 NGIB. Patrols engaged parties of Japs 7988 7993 and 7992.

Total casualties enemy 19 killed own 1 killed 4 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3955 BOUGAINVILLE

42 CORSAIRS bombed enemy camps and bivouacs in the KEKERI area 4770. This followed the AIB report that a possible submarine has been sighted some miles out to sea moving towards a fire which had been lit at KEKERI.

3956 NEW IRELAND

CORSAIR patrol bombed Jap huts at AMBA and strafed and holed a whale boat at KALILI.

3957 NEW GUINEA.

Adverse weather prevented close support missions and only armed recces were carried out along the SEPIK RIVER. Four huts were destroyed at PALIMBAI 8941 and the village of TANBANUM 3040 was thoroughly strafed.

3958 AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3958 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3959 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3960 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3961 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No. 280 (as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3962 BALIKPAPAN

2/27 Aust Inf Bn. encountered some opposition at 617784 and 670794.

2/6 Aust Cdo Sqn made minor contacts at 618760 .

Eight enemy aircraft raided BALIKPAPAN 240300I but no damage or casualties were inflicted.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 9 killed own troops 3 wounded.

3963 BRUNEI

2/28 Aust Inf Bn. are in contact in the PADAS RIVER area.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 3 killed 1 estimated additional dead.

3964 TARAKAN

Patrolling continues.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 9 killed 2 PW.

for Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
27 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WAR DIARY.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 285
(Compiled from infm to 280900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3965 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. A new patrol base has been established to the NW of the MIVO RIVER ford at 123343.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Following the establishment of a patrol base a patrol crossed the MIVO and ambushed a party of 12 Japs on the road approx one mile EAST of the ford at 145325 and resulted in 8 enemy killed. Our arty contacted an enemy position of HMG LMG and mortars at 081358 forcing the Japs to withdraw.

HARI RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol ambushed a Jap party at 011390 killing 3.

3966 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Following arty mortar and MMG concentrations our patrol occupied the extensive position at 639190 forcing the enemy to withdraw.

WAKUNAI patrol ambushed 10 Japs at EVIAN 674272.

Total casualties enemy 7 killed own 4 wounded.

AIB reports that our troops, while making a recce of TOKAI contacted TEIHUP natives and captured three. These natives say that the Japs meant to attack TOKAI 25 Jul to capture all natives in that area, consequently preparations have been made by our party to meet them. Natives further report that the Jap camp is on the NORTH side of a stream approx 710401 about 2,000 yds up from the mouth of the SIVAVI RIVER and that this concentration is much larger than the one at KEVISIA.

3967 NORTHERN SECTOR

8 Aust Inf Bn. Minor patrol contacts resulted in 3 enemy killed.

27 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacts have occurred in the area 3170 and 3171 resulting in enemy casualties 6 killed 4 wounded.

NEW GUINEA

3968 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 8 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols were active in the areas around MANDI 4300 and 10 Japs were killed and 2 PW taken.

RPC killed six Japs in the vicinity of HAMSUK 9814.

Total casualties enemy 18 killed 2 PW own 1 killed.

INLAND SECTOR. Heavy rain restricted operations.

2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops with strong air support captured the defended village of DALIMUG 823988.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops occupied a position at 822993 and killed 5 of a party of 8 Japs which were encountered EAST of ULUNKOHOITU at 820000.

2 NGIB. Bn HQ is now established at 823925.

Total casualties enemy 10 killed.

OWN AIROPS

3969 BOUGAINVILLE

A total of 87 fighter bomber sorties were flown 27 Jul. 43 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed 17 Army HQ in the vicinity of MAIKA obtaining good coverage of the area. The only visible results were two huts destroyed and two damaged. 44 CORSAIRS bombed camps and bivouac areas at CEABAI.

AIB report that an ammunition dump at KOBUAN was destroyed when 42 CORSAIRS attacked the KIETA PENINSULA 20 Jul.

3970 NEW BRITAIN

10 VENTURAS led by CORSAIR bombed stores area to the EAST of TOBERA airfield 950144, three huts were seen to be destroyed. 16 CORSAIRS demonstrated the effectiveness of their bombing when they destroyed 19 large huts three trucks and damaged a further 8 huts and 2 trucks during a raid on enemy installations to the EAST of KERAVAT 677248 - 694241.

3971 NEW GUINEA

28 BEAUFORTS supported 2/5 Aust Inf Bn in their attack on DALIMUG and 9 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed the enemy in dug in positions to the NORTH of ULUNKOHOITU at 818015. BEAUFORTS on armed recce bombed and strafed an area from the track junction 869964 to the villages 8896.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3972 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

3973 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

3974 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

3975 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3976 BALIKPAPAN

25 Aust Inf Bde. have now concentrated their Bns as follows.:- 2/31 Aust Inf Bn 6367, 2/33 Aust Inf Bn 6166, 2/25 Aust Inf Bn 6068, 2/7 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt less one squadron 6371.

Total casualties enemy 6 killed 1 estimated additional dead own troops 1 killed 6 wounded.

3977 BRUNEI

Total casualties enemy 6 killed.

G(Air)
28 Jul 45

[signature]
Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WAR DIARY

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN NO 286
(Compiled from infm to 290900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3978 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrol contacted enemy SOUTH of SISIKATERORI at 107330 and upon engagement by our artillery enemy withdrew. Further patrols to the junction of the MIVO and WAPIAI RIVERS and thence SOUTH to the BUIN ROAD at 1133 report no enemy movement seen.

47 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols contacted an enemy position of unknown strength in B Coy lines midway between MIVO and MOBIAI RIVERS at 087363 and a further enemy position, strength 30, SOUTH of KILLENS TRACK on the WESTERN banks of the MIVO RIVER at 100370. Enemy opposed our patrolling with mortar fire.

RAFFLES FORCE. Natives report large enemy force moving WEST from 259436, and a further party of 21 naval personnel is moving SOUTH from 204479. Other enemy parties are reported to have raided gardens in area 166389 to 159381.

Total casualties enemy 6 killed, own 2 killed.

MOBIAI RIVER. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. A small enemy party made night attack on our forward Coy SOUTH of the river at 076341, supported by LMG and mortar but was repulsed. An enemy ambush, strength 20, was located and dispersed at 079361.

Total casualties enemy 4 killed 1 PW Own 2 wounded.

MORONEI. PIB. A patrol base has been established at 140424. A patrol to OKEMA located a new position at 204479.

3979 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. PIB patrol engaged enemy forward troops in position at 694192.

WAKUNAI patrol reports enemy in strength at TEIKON 737579, and signs of movement between 729283 and 738294.

AIB. On 26 Jul Japs and 13 armed natives from TEIHUP visited TOKAI and returned to TEIHUP. Jap force too strong to be engaged by our patrol. It is considered that they meant to capture TOKAI natives to guide them to our party's camp, but none were captured.

3980 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. Active patrolling continues with no reported contacts.

NEW BRITAIN

3981 WIDE BAY

2/2 Aust Cdo Sqn. C See commenced reconnaissance from LAMARIEN NORTH along MEVELO RIVER to investigate a reported track from MEVELO RIVER over LAKIT RANGE to TORIU. Sqn is scheduled to return on 5 Aug.

3982 OPEN BAY

37 Aust Inf Bn. Night 27 Jul approximately 10 enemy attempted to penetrate our perimeter at 297580. The enemy were repulsed and withdrew under fire striking our booby traps. A patrol to area 295587 recovered enemy rations plus 2 rifles, grenades, an improvised mine, a small scale map and ammunition. A further patrol NORTH from 298567 along SPICER'S TRACK to 292602 report signs of movement of 6 to 8 enemy along track. Blood signs are visible for approximately 2200 yards NORTH from 294680.

NEW GUINEA

3983 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 16 Aust Inf Bde. Adv HQ opens at W296007 at 281800K.

2/2 Aust Inf Bn. Relieved 2/8 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols covering relief killed 4 Japs.

8 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols engaged 15 Japs at W384004 and 20 Japs at W315999 killing 7.

2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt. Patrol with artillery support cleared MACHOUN W073183.

Total casualties enemy 11 killed, own 4 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols cleared main SUAUI track to A814940 and cut SUAUI-MAIABEIM track at A832952 and advanced to A835958. Further patrols contacted enemy positions at A828992 and A833992, and engaged a third position at A833978.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols engaged 20/30 Japs in well prepared positions at V818015 killing 5, and killed an additional 3 Japs at V832032.

2 NGIB. Patrols cleared YANGUMP A7993, A808950 and SIGORA A858914. Enemy in unknown strength are reported at MAMBORO A845916, BELMOR A851920 and BUKI A845925.

Total casualties enemy 19 killed, own 2 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3984 BOUGAINVILLE

20 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentration in the ATARA RIVER area at 322444. 24 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentration at KEKERE 475716 destroying one hut. 46 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed a large party of enemy and hostile natives at TEIHUP 710401, results of bombing unobserved.

3985 NEW BRITAIN

6 MITCHELLS bombed stores in the TOBERA area securing good coverage of target area and 6 MITCHELLS bombed stores in the VUNAKANAU area causing fires with much black smoke. A third force of 6 MITCHELLS struck at a bivouac in the RABAUL area, damage being unassessed. 11 VENTURAS and 9 CORSAIRS bombed personnel areas, trucks and tanks in TOKUA plantation 031204 destroying 24 huts damaging 10 and opening up several new tunnels while 6 patrolling CORSAIRS killed 10 Japs in a garden at RAULAVAT.

3986 NEW GUINEA

13 BEAUFORTS attacked YARANGAI A7243 and YALINGAI A8839 destroying a total of 24 huts in the two villages. 29 BEAUFORTS in support of a ground attack accurately bombed a knoll at GWENIK A832992 clearing area of timber. 3 BEAUFORTS whilst on armed recce bombed and strafed KWONGA B0344, AMBANABIS A885954, KAKARAU B0132 area B0498.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

3987 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No 261.

3988 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No 94.

3989 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No 260.

3990 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No 280 (as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

3991 BALIKPAPAN

2/9 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy position reported on track at 363730.

Total casualties enemy 3 killed own 2 killed 4 wounded.

3992 BRUNEI

Patrolling all sectors NO contacts.

Total casualties enemy 1 killed 1 PW own 2 wounded.

3993 TARAKAN

Total casualties enemy 7 killed 4 PW.

Lt Col
GS
for

G (Air)
29 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION : As for ALO Bulletin No 275.

War Diary.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 287
(Compiled from infm to 300900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

3994 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 42 Aust Inf Bn. An enemy position at 092319 was engaged. Eight Japs were killed and two wounded.

HARI RIVER. 24 Aust Inf Bn. Thirty armed natives are reported to be working a gardent in the TAITAN area 019420. A patrol to URAI was ambushed by twenty Japs in the vicinity of the OGORATA at 043381.

RAFFLES FORCE. Natives report a strong enemy force is concentrated to the EAST of NUMAGAI RIVER from 252388 to 256443.

AIB reports a concentration of 80 Japs in four huts situated in a coconut grove at 326409 and a force of 300 Japs on the NORTH bank of the LULULAI RIVER at 311578. A force of Japs from VITO is reported to have joined the ROROVANA garrison and the combined forces have made two attempts to move SOUTH but have been forced back by a patrol. Seven Japs were killed, our losses one. Partisans from KOOLAI attacked enemy camp to the NE of ISINA at 324725 killing 15 Japs.

3995 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA RURI. PIB patrol engaged a Jap ambush at 331717 and forced the enemy to withdraw to the SIAR PLANTATION. Later on further contact was made.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy nine killed four probables three wounded, own one killed two wounded.

NEW BRITAIN

3996 WIDE BAY

All rivers are in flood and the bridge over the WULWUT 613520 has been completely destroyed.

2/2 Aust Cdo Sqn. A patrol inland has reached a point 451677 but is unable to cross the MEVELO RIVER.

NEW GUINEA

3997 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol is now within half a mile of RINDOGIN having reached 286952 without contact. Bn HQ has been established in the vicinity of HAMBRAURI 289969.

8 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols report having killed six Japs in the areas 4199 and 3302.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy six killed two PW own one wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol to GWEWIK 833992 was engaged by heavy fire from an enemy position at 831989.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacts are reported at 818015 and 823981.

2 NGIB. Patrol engaged enemy preparing defences in the vicinity of GWALIP at 834926 killing three.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy eight killed own one wounded.

OWN AIROPS

3998 BOUGAINVILLE

24 CORSAIRS attacked enemy concentrations at TOIMONAPU 485670 and a large column of black smoke was observed after the raid. Bivouac areas on the MULIKO RIVER 3434 were bombed by 20 CORSAIRS and enemy concentrations at KIKIBATSIAGO 316398 and TOBAGO 324418 were attacked by : forces of 20 and 24 CORSAIRS respectively with unobserved results.

3999 NEW GUINEA

Three BEAUFORTS on armed recce bombed huts at 047923, MANGANGE 0153 GAIKAROS 925510 and village 960465. 22 BEAUFORTS supported a patrol 2/6 Aust Inf Bn in their engagement at 818015.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4000 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

4001 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4002 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

4003 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280 (as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

4004 BALIKPAPAN

2/5 Aust Cdo Sqn is in contact in area 6175 and 6176.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 7 killed own troops 3 wounded 2 missing.

4005 TARAKAN

26 Aust Inf Bde. Active patrolling continues.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 3 killed 10 PW.

J.W. Watmaj
for Lt Col.
GS

G(Air)
30 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 288
(Compiled from infm to 310900K)

GENERAL

4006 TARGET MARKING OVER NEW BRITAIN - METHODS EMPLOYED BY EMIRAU SMOKEY JOES

The following description of the target marking methods employed by a RNZAF CORSAIR Squadron (EMIRAU-based) over NEW BRITAIN is reproduced from RNZAF Intelligence Bulletin No. 208.

"After a month at EMIRAU the possibility of fighter bomber aircraft marking targets for MARINE MITCHELL strikes in the north of NEW BRITAIN was discussed. The difficulty of the MARINE MITCHELL's was in the location of the exact target areas in the small time available to the bombardiers during the run on the target.

The first mission of this nature was flown entirely as a "Smokey Joe" mission. Two aircraft were over the target 15 minutes before the strike was due to arrive in order to give them plenty of time to reconnoitre and identify their target. Communication was established when the strike force was ten minutes away and at the commencement of the strike's bombing run the CORSAIRS went down, smoked the target and left the area. 98 per cent of the strike's bombs went in to the area.

Later it appeared that it was unnecessary to fly a special mission right down to NEW BRITAIN and it was suggested that the CORSAIR Dumbo escort should carry smoke bombs and do the two jobs in one. From then on the Dumbo escort smoked targets when required. Procedure was that the escort would take off and rendezvous with Dumbo, proceeding with him until such time as it became necessary to break off and go on ahead in order to look the target over. This was approximately ten minutes before the arrival of the strike. They would then identify their target and wait for smoke, after which they retired to rendezvous with Dumbo at one of several orbit points.

On three occasions the aircraft on one Dumbo mission successfully smoked two targets for the bombers. The only hitches that have occurred have been caused by the weather. Once or twice the first bombs failed to explode but the second aircraft was able to redeem the situation in such cases. In all, 12 targets were smoked and four were weathered. On other occasions the CORSAIRS smoked the target but the bombers found the cloud too dense to bomb through and left for secondary targets."

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4007 SOUTHERN SECTOR

HARI RIVER. 57/60 Aust Inf Bn. Natives report an engagement with Japanese ambush party approx half a mile NE of UNANAI at 005397.

Throughout 3 Aust Div area active and aggressive patrolling continues but no enemy contacts reported during the past 24 hours.

AIB reports natives attacked a Japanese party approx 20 strong along the road approx 1000 yds SE of BAPIILO 291455. Five enemy were killed in the engagement. It would appear

that Japanese intentions are to hold a position in the vicinity of LOBAI 299502 and due to the lack of cover and the alertness of the enemy native scouts are unable to make a further attack. Natives ambushed another party of Japs in the vicinity of KOMAI 315456 and although 12 Japs were killed 8 escaped and later fired on our scouts when searching the dead bodies.

4008 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA-RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. Attempts by the enemy to infiltrate through our lines continued on the night 29/30 when movement was observed in A Coys lines. A platoon patrolling in the vicinity of the PORTON-RURI Bay track at 315714 located 20 Japs in a prepared position. Contact was made and three enemy killed, one wounded.

8 Aust Inf Bn. Location of a new bunkered position EAST of D Coys lines at 294709 is reported.

NEW BRITAIN

4009 WIDE BAY

A small party of Japs is reported in a native village two miles WEST of the NEVELO RIVER 4470.

4010 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. B Coys move to NANTAMBU 957592 has been completed.

NEW GUINEA

4011 MADANG - HANSA BAY

4 Aust Inf Bn report standing patrol is now withdrawn from ZORGO.

4012 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. Native patrols operating SOUTH of HAMBRAURI in the vicinity of B2896 B2895 killed 12 Japs and report the area between 29 and 30 vertical grids and SOUTH to 955 grid has been cleared of enemy. Native reports indicate a Japanese party approx 37 strong with 6 armed natives moving in a Westerly direction along the BANAHITAU ridge.

2/8 Aust Inf Bn is established at W318082

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 12 killed.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Troops patrolling in the vicinity of SUAUI villages at A814939 report the area clear.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops occupied an extensive position EAST of the BUT MAPRIK track V817015. One Jap was killed when a patrol engaged a Japenese party SE of ULUNKOHOITU A823995. Remainder of the party fled.

2 NGIB. Native troops attacked and burnt a village A834914 and report Japanese to be in strength KWALUDU A830918.

2/1 Aust Tk A Regt. Troops from the second battery attacked a well prepared enemy position WEST of JAMA 2 and killed 32 Japs.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 49 killed own 2 killed 2 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

4013 NEW BRITAIN

Due to low cloud and hazardous flying conditions MARINE MITCHELLS operating from EMIRAU were weathered out of NEW BRITAIN. 8 JACQUINOT fighter-bombers attacked enemy occupied huts and bivouac areas along the SOUTH bank of the TORIU RIVER opposite to BANPFRA-GEWERK plantation 2879. Six huts were destroyed and two damaged.

4014 NEW GUINEA

An early afternoon raid by 17 BEAUFORTS obtained good coverage when they attacked enemy dug in positions on the ridge SW of KABOIBUS villages then thoroughly strafed the area to MANALU A833978. 2 NGIB report an excellent strike with good coverage by 28 BEAUFORTS. The light bombers attacked enemy defences and dug in positions in the vicinity of GWALIP villages A825924. Twelve huts were destroyed. 2 BEAUFORTS on armed recce bombed A9845 and GAIKAROBI destroying seven canoes on the SEPIK RIVER.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4015 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

4016 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4017 NEW BRITAIN - see para 3598 ALO Bulletin No. 260.

4018 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

4019 BALIKPAPAN

Patrol and arty activity only.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 6 killed own 1 killed.

4020 BRUNEI

9 Aust Div HQ now located 759889.

Active patrolling in all sectors continues.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 5 killed own 1 killed 1 wounded.

4021 TARAKAN

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy two killed.

for Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
31 Jul 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

SECRET

WAR DIARY

Month August

Year 1945

Branch G(Air). First Aust Army (AIF)

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
LAE	1 Aug	First Aust Army ALO Bulletin No. 289	1	
"	2 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 290	2	
"	3 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 291	3	
"	4 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 292	4	
"	4 "	Lt-Col A.B. MILLARD GI(Air) returned from JACQUINOT BAY		
"	5 "	First Aust Army ALO Bulletin No. 293	5	
"	6 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 294	6	
"	7 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 295	7	
"	8 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 296	8	
"	9 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 297	9	
"	10 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 298	10	
"	11 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 299	11	
"	12 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 300	12	
"	13 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 301	13	
"	14 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 302	14	
"	14 "	Maj H.W. WATT GII(Air) detached for duty with PA to GOC		
"	15 "	First Aust Army ALO Bulletin No. 303	15	
"	16 "	Do. Do. Do. No. 304	16	
"	21 "	Lt-Col A.B. MILLARD GI(Air) departed for MADANG		
"	27 "	Lt-Col A.B. MILLARD GI(Air) returned from MADANG		

[signature]
G(Air)
First Aust Army

WAR DIARY. 1.

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 289
(Compiled from infm to 010900K)

GENERAL

4022 INCENDIARY RAIDS

The XXI Bomber Command's highly successful incendiary campaign, which began in March, had by 4 July destroyed 41 per cent of the five major cities of TOKYO, YOKOHAMA, NAGOYA, KOBE and OSAKA and 45 per cent of 22 smaller cities.

Photographic interpretation and Japanese radio broadcasts indicate that nearly two million homes have been destroyed and as many as nine million persons have been left homeless by the attacks. In addition, the raids have dealt a serious blow to the Japanese industries scattered throughout the burned-out areas. Many of the plants themselves have been gutted. Workers have been left homeless; many are temporarily prevented from reaching their jobs as a result of transportation failures. The spectular destruction has not only placed a serious strain on the economic structure; it has caused a significant decline in overall Japanese war production.

In areas not yet touched by the incendiary raids, a large proportion of Japan's productive machinery still remains undamaged. Aerial photographs show that at least four-fifths of the enemy's most important war plants, including aircraft factories, arsenals, etc., are still intact. The Japanese have undoubtedly been able to restore production of some key items in industries which have been hit.

Even in these cases, however, the incendiary raids have had their effect. Housing and transportation difficulties have cut down available manpower. Supply of parts, tools and chemicals produced by smaller plants in the burned areas has been reduced. Of equal importance is the fact that the riads have eliminated Japan's "cushion" against damage to come in precision bombing, which must eventually knock out the larger, dispersed industries.

The Japanese are doubtless making a desperate effort to maintain their war production by sacrificing all non-essential activity. If, for instance, 50 per cent of the housing in a given city has been destroyed, the enemy is likely to dispossess non-essential civilians to make room for war workers who may have lost their housing. If 50 per cent of the warehouses in another city has been wiped out, he is almost certain to allocate the remaining storage space to vital material (e.g., aircraft parts) rather than to less essential goods, (e.g. textiles).

Such re-allocation of resources, however, has readily apparent limitations, for the enemy's supply of non-essential resources is far from inexhaustible. In eliminating the "cushion", the recuperative powers of the remaining productive machinery are lost and this industry becomes vulnerable to concentrated "precision" bombing attacks.

Precision bombing, in contrast to the area bombing most widely employed to date, involves a concentrated pin-point attack upon specific industrialy plants manufacturing equipment for direct consumption by the armed forces, such as aircraft and tank factories. These attacks effect an immediate reduction in the availability of military equipment, and when the recuperative power of the economic system has been reduced by area bombing, this reduction is prolonged.

When U.S. bombers undertake large scale precision attacks on Japanese war industries, the effectiveness of these raids will be greatly augmented by the incendiary attacks which are now being carried out.

Extract from United States Pacific Fleet Weekly Intelligence Summary Vol 2 No. 1 of 16 Jul 45.

BOUGAINVILLE

4023 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. On the night 30/31 Jul enemy harassed our positions SOUTH of the BUIN ROAD in D Coy area. Intense fire from enemy LMGs stopped our patrol from crossing the MIVO RIVER NORTH of the ford.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy parties operating SOUTH of the Bn area were contacted by patrols at 089334,095326 and 094322. Casualties enemy 1 killed 2 wounded, own 1 killed 2 wounded.

AIB report enemy bases are located in the area REBOINE 373808 and 364807 and indications reveal new camps are being built in this area. Native scouts are investigating inland new track on Northern bank of SIAR RIVER. PIDIA natives advise following Jap positions. A line of outposts runs along the MONKIRA RIVER from 220920 for an unknown distance upstream. Huts are located near KOBUAN 223912, METOMETO 224917, TANARAU 225926, EBURA 223937, PIDIA 219943 and MARAVANA 227961. Refugee natives also report Jap posts at KAPIA 264914 and BAERO 271940.

4024 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A platoon supported by artillery mortar and MMGs occupied a Japanese defensive position approx one mile WEST of KALIKOKU 695193. A further advance by this platoon met heavy opposition from 695194. Casualties enemy two killed one wounded, own three killed. Another patrol ambushed a Japanese party 1000 yards SW of ASIPEPIN at 673280 and four Japs were killed.

4025 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn report an enemy position previously located 315714 on the PORTON RURI BAY track has now been vacated.

8 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol engaged an enemy defensive position equipped with HMGs and LMGs in the vicinity COMMO RIDGE, at 290708. Several booby traps were sprung, casualties enemy 4 killed own 2 killed 3 missing 3 wounded.

141 Aust Hvy AA Bty engaged Japanese barges in the BUKA PASSAGE and secured direct hits on the BUKA jetty.

4026 SEA

HMAS LITHGOW and three MLs successfully bombarded enemy occupied huts and concentrations on the EAST coast of BUKA in the vicinity of CAPE TATABU, LONAHAN and CAPE TANABOM. It is estimated that at least eight huts were destroyed and twenty damaged.

NEW BRITAIN

4027 WIDE BAY

2/2 Aust Cdo Sqn. Section patrol from C Tp located a track WEST of the MEVELO RIVER at 473728 then followed it WEST to 466732. It is estimated that the track had not been used for approx four weeks.

NEW GUINEA

4028 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 16 Aust Inf Bde. Patrolling activity continues.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 5 killed 2 PW, own 1 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 17 Aust Inf Bde. Bde HQ is now established at YAMIL A788988.

2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols report Japs in occupation of MALABEI SUAUI track from A836957 to A836963.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols engaged Japanese defensive positions NORTH of the KABOIBUS villages at V8202 V8201 and V8200. Six Japs were killed. Natives report an enemy party approx 20 strong is located at BOINIP V879048 and a further Jap party 30 strong SUMOGAN V863104.

2 NGIB. Following successful air strike mentioned in ALO Bulletin No. 288 para 4014 reports indicate the village of ULAMA A829924 was completely devastated. Our troops killed a further 16 Japs when they captured the village. Our troops occupied KESAMBIK A834913 and SIGORA A859914. The enemy is reported to be in position MIYAMBORA A840912 and BAIARA A833917.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 50 killed own 2 killed 2 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

4029 NEW IRELAND

18 MITCHELLS bombed selected secondary targets in the vicinity IABULU, PANAPAI and KAVIENG, results were generally unobserved.

4030 NEW GUINEA

18 BEAUFORTS led in by BOOMERANG bombed and strafed Jap HQ in area A8895. The target was indicated by smoke and very good coverage obtained. Huts were destroyed and a large explosion from a possible ammunition dump caused dense black smoke to arise from the centre of target area. 22 BEAUFORTS in support of a ground patrol made two successful attacks on a defended knoll A838964 and wooded area A835964. A large area of timber was cleared and the majority of bombs fell in the target area. 2 NGIB report the successful raid by 28 BEAUFORTS on 30 Jul completely devastated ULAMA village A829924 and killed 21 Japs. BEAUFORTS on armed recce bombed and strafed NOGOSOP A9647, YAGANAU A8643, MOIM B6341 destroying one hut. Six huts and possible POL dump were destroyed at PALIMBAI A8939.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4031 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

4032 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4033 NEW BRITAIN

New Airforce Bombline as from 010001K. NO attack SOUTH of line from UMVAMIKI RIVER 946588 WEST to 2900 feature 3761 NORTH WEST to river junction 331643 then along NORTH bank of MAZALAILI RIVER to coast 284639. Watercraft bombline. NO attack on water craft SOUTH of EW line EAST from mouth UMVAMIKI RIVER 946588 and WEST from mouth MAZALAILI RIVER 284639.

4034 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

4035 BALIKPAPAN

Active patrolling continues in all sectors.

2/7 Aust Cdo Sqn patrol is in contact 618762.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 9 killed 1 PW own 1 killed 4 wounded.

4036 BRUNEI

Patrol activity in all sectors.

One enemy aircraft dropped two bombs and strafed BRUNEI town at 300530I wounding two natives but causing no damage. One bomb was droped on MIRI area at 300600I but no damage or casualties were inflicted.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy nil own 2 wounded 1 missing.

4037 TARAKAN

26 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols and PT boats killed 14 Japs and captured 3 PW.

H W Sadler Maj
for Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
1 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As forALO Bulletin No. 275.

WO 2

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 290
(Compiled from infm to 020900K)

GENERAL

4038 AIR ATTACKS ON GUN POSITIONS

During the campaign in North-West Europe, a large number of captured gun-sites were examined with the object of finding out what damage had been done to them and how much of that damage had been caused by air attack. This report is based on personal surveys of captured gun-sites and subsequent discussion with members of Air and Armament Staffs, together with conclusions taken from reports previously published.

Although air attack on enemy gun positions has been of considerable assistance to our ground forces, it should not be expected that a whole battery will be knocked out by air attack alone. Counter-battery fire will usually also be required. Even attacks by fighter-bomber aircraft will be only partly effective.

Guns in open emplacements can be successfully attacked by bombs and rocket projectiles. On hard ground the debris thrown up by near misses often silences individual guns.

Hardly any material damage has been done to guns in heavy, reinforced concrete emplacements. Destruction of these positions entails direct hits from heavy, armour-piercing bombs; but rocket projectiles and cannon and machine gun fire may succeed in silencing guns temporarily, even those in concrete emplacements.

The stunning effect produced by air attack can be successfully exploited if the ground forces follow up within a few minutes. This stunning effect, which is manifest in a temporary loss of power to resist infantry attacks, only lasts for a few minutes.

There is no evidence to show that air attacks have a lasting effect on the morale of gun crews, but it is not unlikely that they have such an effect. The influence on morale is seen in a reduction in the will to resist infantry attacks.

(Extract from Current Reports from Overseas No. 91)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4039 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. During night 31 Jul 1 Aug enemy patrols were active around D Coy perimeter SOUTH of the BUIN ROAD. On 1 Aug a patrol base was established approx two miles NE of SISIKAPEKORI at 131352.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacted enemy in B Coy area SOUTH of the BUIN ROAD at 094330, one Jap wounded.

MOBIAI RIVER. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. C Coy established 064358 and D Coy located 068353. Patrol contacted enemy of unknown strength approx two miles WEST of TUGIOGU at 161376. This position was later found to be vacated.

OGORATA RIVER. 2/11 Aust Fd Regt. During night 31 Jul 1 Aug enemy movement apparent in 61 Bty area 057356. Enemy penetrated perimeter of Mechanical Equipment Coy destroying one truck three ton.

MAMAGOTA. Signs of small enemy party moving EAST along beach reported in area.

UPPER MIVO RIVER.RAFFLES FORCE. TOGIOGU OP reports 40 enemy moved from KIKIMOGO 241378 to REACHING 203378 on 31 Jul.

4040 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols and arty at present harassing enemy position at 695194.

4041 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. During night 31 Jul 1 Aug enemy were active in our perimeter area 298699. Grenades were exchanged. On 1 Aug patrol clash occurred at 299716 resulting in casualties enemy 5 killed own 2 killed.

8 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol attacked 20 Japs at 324708 killing 14.

NEW BRITAIN

4042 WIDE BAY

BULUS and MOONDEI RIVERS are now crossable by log bridges.

NGIB. Patrol along the LEMINGI track report enemy has evacuated position in vicinity of track junction 732585. This evacuation believed to be the result of our arty fire on 16/17 Jul. Huts to accommodate up to 50 men found demolished by Japs at approx 735591.

4043 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. On 1 Aug our outpost at 269603 twice observed two enemy on beach of MAPANAKUNEY BAY. Out post also observed barge between LAULU and MATALAILI RIVER.

NEW GUINEA

4044 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn relieved 2/4 Aust Inf Bn in SHIBURANGU - SAURI area and commenced active patrolling.

2/4 Aust Inf Bn now concentrated in area W243153.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 1 killed own 1 wounded, 1 Indian recovered.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. After effective air strike our troops captured G7ENIK A833992 and A830980 and exploited NW to A834977. Patrol operating in areas A8399, A8396 and A8592 killed 15 Japs. Natives killed 7 Japs at KWAMBIKUM A784883. KWAMBIKUM and TAIGERHI A7988 village group now reported clear of enemy. Further 19 Japs killed by air strikes located in this area.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops occupied A833996.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Bn now complete at A778977.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 50 killed 2 PW, own 1 killed.

OWN AIROPS

4045 BOUGAINVILLE

For the third consecutive day all strikes were weathered out in the SOLOMONS area.

AIB reports that good coverage of the target was secured when 24 CORSAIRS attacked enemy concentrations at TOIMONAPU on 28 Jul. Jap sentries prevented our scouts from accurately assessing the damage A further AIB report classifies the bombing of KERERE by 42 CORSAIRS and 24 CORSAIRS on 26 Jul and 28 Jul respectively as excellent. The camp was completely devastated and many Japs were killed.

4046 NEW BRITAIN

12 MITCHELLS bombed enemy bivouac areas and store dumps in the RABAUL town area and a further 6 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas at VUNAKANAU. Cloud over target prevented observation of results.

4047 NEW GUINEA

31 BEAUFORTS effectively supported a ground attack which resulted in the capture of GWENIK A833992. 12 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed enemy defensive positions along the ridge at A840917. Fifteen huts were destroyed and the entire ridge was well blasted. BEAUFORTS on armed recce bombed and strafed NOGOSOP A9546 AIBOM A855275, PALIMBAI A895395 and B645425 destroying a few huts in each village. An AA gun at SINGARIN was also attacked.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4048 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

4049 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4050 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289

4051 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

4052 BORNEO

Patrol activity continues in all areas.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 20 killed 4 PW, own 1 wounded.

for LT Col
GS

G(Air)
2 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WD 3

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 291
(Compiled from infm to 030900K)

GENERAL

4053 CLOSE AIR SUPPORT IN BURMA

During the BURMA campaigns a very high degree of co-operation and co-ordination between air and ground forces was developed, according to Army Air Forces Evaluation Board Report No. 6 from the China-Burma-Theatre. Particular emphasis is laid on the effectiveness of air attack in the battle areas in furthering the tactical objectives of the ground forces. Because of the nature of the campaign the ground forces lacked much of the normal heavy weapons and artillery support, and this lack was made good by close air support. The report states that in certain situations dive bombing was regarded as more accurate than artillery.

The MYITKYINA operation was an excellent example of the close support that can be obtained under favourable circumstances. The organisation was so closely knit that company commanders could request a mission and see it executed within 30 minutes. Thus, targets which would otherwise have moved on were destroyed shortly after first being observed. Pilots operating from the MYITKYINA airfield nearby executed missions within 25 yards of friendly troops without a single friendly casualty. Fighter-bombers from more distant fields did not execute strikes closer than 300 yards. Among the factors that made possible the very close support by the MYITKYINA-based planes was the fact that the company commander could go directly to the air headquarters and brief the pilot on gridded photos available to both infantry and air. Normally requests for missions went through G-3 channels, but close co-ordination between the pilots and the units in contact was maintained.

During the period 17 May to 3 August, 2,515 sorties were flown over the MYITKYINA battle area.

Another instance of this close support was the case of a Chinese division which was being held up by some particularly well-emplaced machine guns. Four hundred casualties had been suffered when air support was requested. Four dive bombers were guided to the position by an observer using radio and the position was silenced in one run over the target.

Some of the factors that made possible this effective support were visual control posts, rapid communications, close liaison, the employment of cub aircraft to direct air strikes, and the use of gridded photographs. The close support was achieved despite the fact that the troops being supported included East African, West African, Indian, British, Chinese and American forces.

(Extract from OPDIB Bulletin Vol IV No 8 of 23 Jun 45.)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4054 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols operating in a southerly direction on the western bank of the MIVO RIVER contacted a party of Japs estimated 15 strong equipped with LMG and mortar, at 107324. PIB patrol operating from their base on the eastern bank of the WAPIAI RIVER 131352 located and engaged 20 Japs in a defensive position 300 yards WEST of the OAMAI RIVER 146340. Casualties enemy

5 killed 1 wounded.

42 Aust Inf Bn. C Coy are now established at 091334 and minor enemy sightings are reported SOUTH of the BUIN ROAD.

MOBIAI RIVER. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrol engaged 40 Japs NORTH of the BUIN ROAD at 066372. Evasion tactics were adopted by the Japs but [illegible] were re-engaged at 068372 later breaking contact. Signs of recent Japanese activity are reported EAST of the TOHODO RIVER at 082384 and 083387. Casualties enemy 2 killed 2 wounded.

AIB reports. Native sergeant completed a recce of the ATAMO area 905973 and advised this district to be clear of Japs. An OP on TAVOR 233893 reports smoke and fires observed at TANARAU 253934 on the night 31 Jul. PIDIA natives advise two naval guns previously reported to be at approx 236924 have been recently moved. Japanese concentrations are reported as follows:- 19 Japs at LAPITUN, 80 Japs BORVEI 975094, 20 Japs VITO.

4055 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. A fighting patrol moving in a northerly direction along the RURI PORAPORA track located a Jap position 320705 which had been vacated. The track to the NE is reported to be heavily mined and one of our tanks was disabled. A patrol in the vicinity of COMMO RIDGE contacted an enemy party at 295710, one of our troops was wounded.

NEW BRITAIN

4056 OPEN BAY

NGIB. An early morning patrol departed for 308615 then moved WEST to 298613 NORTH to 288519 and established a base at 288629 NORTH of COOPERS CLEARING at MATANAKUNEI BAY. A recce along the coast to 286632 fired on a small party of Japs killing 3. A further 4 Japs were engaged at 286615, all enemy believed killed.

NEW GUINEA

4057 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn, advanced SOUTH along the BIG ROAD and occupied positions at B281960 and B281957. Our patrols report a Japanese party estimated at 25 strong NORTH of the BANAHITAM villages at 278978 and a further party of unknown strength at RINGO-GIM B280946.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 6 killed own 1 killed 1 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops occupied positions WEST of the KABOIBUS villages at 823011,821007 and 823996.

2 NGIB. Following a successful air strike our troops gained a foot hold in the vicinity of MYAMBORA 840915 but were forced to withdraw when the enemy engaged our position with HMG fire. During this contact 13 Japs were killed. Whilst an enemy party estimated at 30 strong were approaching our position at A858915 our troops killed 3 Japs.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 18 killed own 6 wounded including 4 native soldiers.

OWN AIROPS

4058 BOUGAINVILLE

19 CORSAIRS bombed hutted area MAIKI 404310, 415318 destroying two huts at 415318. 24 CORSAIRS bombed enemy bivouac areas SOUTH of COMMANDO ROAD in the vicinity of MULIKO RIVER 340346, 343346. Results were unobserved. 4 CORSAIRS each carrying 1,000 lb bombs attacked a tank SOUTH of TARLENA PLANTATION near CHABAI 246739. A direct hit and a near miss turned the tank on its side.

4059 NEW BRITAIN

12 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas NW RABAUL with good coverage. 5 MITCHELLS bombed enemy bivouac areas in the vicinity of VUNAKANAU with unobserved results. All missions from JACQUINOT BAY were weathered out.

4060 NEW GUINEA

24 BEAUFORTS supported ground troops from 2 NGIB during an attack on an unmapped village at A840918. Enemy defences were thoroughly bombed and strafed and ten huts destroyed. 3 BEAUFORTS on armed recce bombed and strafed MAGENDO B8048 destroying one hut NOGOSOP A9546 - TIMBUNKE B2240. Large explosion from one hut in unnamed village A8945 caused five huts to be set on fire.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4061 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

4062 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4063 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4064 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280 (as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

4065 BALIKPAPAN

100 enemy are reported moving from MOERAD-JAWA 0304 to BAROE 8987. Patrol NEI moved to BAROE.

2/16 Aust Inf Bn redisposed with Coys at SAMBODJA and AMBORAWANG. Enemy position at 615757 was found unoccupied.

2/5 Aust Cdo Sqn. A patrol encountered scattered fire from 617758.

2/1 Aust Pnr Bn. Approx 50 enemy attacking elements 2/1 Aust Pnr Bn at 517796 were repulsed.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 6 killed.

4066 BRUNEI

Active patrolling continues in all sectors.

Total enemy casualties 3 killed.

4067 TARAKAN

Patrols killed 1 Jap and captured 3 PW.

G(Air)
3 Aug 45

for Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION: As for AIC Bulletin No. 275.

WD 4

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 292
(Compiled from infm to 040900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4068 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. During the past 24 hours patrol activity was intensified extensively. Contact was made approx half a mile SOUTH of SISIKATEKORI, WEST of the MIVO RIVER with a small party of Japs estimated 15 strong. Patrolling along the BUIN ROAD to the ROPIKAI RIVER our troops ambushed an enemy party 10 strong at 133330 and further contacts were made approx half a mile NORTH at 131338. Reconnaissance patrols searched all tracks NORTH of the BUIN ROAD between the WAPIAI and OAMAI RIVERS and report no enemy prepared defences located. Casualties enemy 16 killed 1 wounded.

42 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ has moved EAST along the BUIN ROAD and is now established at 089335.

47 Aust Inf Bn. A fighting patrol engaged 10 Japs on KILLENS TRACK WEST of the MIVO RIVER at 100378 wounding two. Active PIB patrols between the BUIN and COMMANDO ROADS in the KANURI-KAPANA - HARI RIVER areas report no enemy movement seen.

MOBIAI RIVER. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. A small enemy party were observed moving in an easterly direction approx 1¼ miles SW of PROBY'S FORD. No contacts were reported.

UPPER MIVO RIVER. RAFFLES FORCE. Patrolling extensively and far afield in the vicinity of MAKORAI, KANAURA and PIANO MISSION our troops report no large enemy concentrations sighted although small scattered groups were observed throughout the area.

AIB. AIB reports at approx 020500L an unknown number of Japs were landed from three large canoes in the vicinity of RANKAMA at 203917.

NEW GUINEA

4069 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops are reported to have captured positions along the HAMBRAURI - RINDOGIM track at B232960 and B280958 killing nine Japs. Another patrol reports extensive defensive positions being prepared by the enemy at NORTH end of RINDOGIM B2693.

2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt. Patrols from the RPC report BULUBUDU-UNI V842112 - KUBAIKA V814098 - NIUMO V8083 clear of the enemy.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 19 killed own 2 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/6 Aust Inf Bn. After vigorous and extensive patrolling strong enemy outposts were cleared and captured by our troops in the villages of KABOIBUS A843997. Between 100 and 150 well prepared weapon pits were located. Other patrols operating SOUTH of this area cleared the ridge at A835982 and WAMIMIGI village A838964.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrolling continues and contacts were made with the enemy NORTH of ULUNKOHOITU at V826007 and V823003.

2 NGIB. Our troops have engaged strong enemy defensive positions in the vicinity of BIAORA at A840918 killing 5 Japs.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 18 killed 1 PW, own 1 native soldier killed.

OWN AIROPS

4070 NEW IRELAND

2 CORSAIRS on patrol bombed huts ULUINONO destroying one. 2 CORSAIRS on sweep cratered road KIKI-AN strafed and fired two huts at MESSI.

4071 NEW GUINEA

1 BEAUFORT accurately strafed enemy held village at 843966. 26 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed enemy position A829930 securing good coverage of target and destroying two huts. 3 BEAUFORTS on armed recce bombed and strafed village 869917 destroying one hut, PALIMBAI 895395, AIBOM 855275 and unnamed village 864910.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4072 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

4073 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94

4074 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4075 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280 (as amended)

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
4 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WAR DIARY 5

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No 293
(Compiled from infm to 050900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4076 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. During an engagement at the MIVO RIVER crossing 106320, approx three quarters of a mile SOUTH of SISIKATEKORI an A Coy patrol lost one killed and 2 wounded. Casualties inflicted upon the enemy were one killed.

MOBIAI RIVER. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. A small party of Japs estimated at 7 strong were engaged by our troops and 3 Japs were killed and 2 wounded.

AIB. AIB reports armed natives ambushed 30 Japs in the gardens near TSUREKU 320580 killing 8. Further engagements are reported along the DERAE RIVER at 202814, casualties 6 Japs killed. Three Japs escaped in a small canoe and partisans in the area are still searching for other watercraft.

4077. CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. During a minor skirmish in the vicinity of IBU our patrol killed 2 Japs.

AIB. At dawn on 3 Aug 34 scouts contacted Japs camped in the vicinity of TSIHUP. Prior to the attack dogs gave the Japs warning of the party's approach and the enemy immediately opened fire with MGs and mortars inflicting one casualty. A small party of our troops reached the camp boundary and attacked houses with grenades and OWEN guns with unobserved results. A second attempt resulted in 7 Japs and 2 hostile natives killed.

NEW GUINEA

4078. COASTAL SECTOR. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols have cleared the hill WEST of RINDOGIN B2894 SOUTH to TAMBAFAIN, NORTH to BANAH-ITAM RIDGE and WEST to B261972. The BIG ROAD is now corduroyed to track junction B2895 approx one and one quarter miles SSE of HAMBRAURI.

30 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols operating on the NORTHERN slopes of the ALEXANDER MOUNTAINS SW of MT TAZAKI engaged an enemy position at 3324997 killing 7 Japs, and report a new bunker position at 3199.

2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt. A patrol recovered 30 KAIRIRU ISLAND natives from KARASAU ISLAND.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 9 killed, one PW, 2 wounded.

4079. INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy parties of unknown strength were engaged in the vicinity of the KABOIBUS Villages at A853997 and A848299. Another patrol cleared MERU V846000. Whilst attacking AHEGULIM our troops gained a position SOUTH of the track at A834977 but immediately came under heavy fire from the enemy located slightly to the NORTH at A836977.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops patrolled extensively throughout the areas V8200 and V8300.

2 NGIB. A further position was occupied EAST of the GWALIP Villages at A832925.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Bn less one Coy is now established at A825915 with the Coy located at A860908.

AIB reports natives killed 10 of a Jap party at MAINJA A8252 which later moved to MARUI A6553.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 29 killed 7 PW own 2 killed.

OWN AIROPS

4080. BOUGAINVILLE

25 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentrations in the vicinity of KIKIBATSIAGO at 316398, 318399 and 315394 destroying 9 huts. 21 CORSAIRS bombed huts at MUGUAI 368396 with unobserved results. A CORSAIR patrol destroyed 4 huts at 366363.

4081. NEW GUINEA

2 armed recce BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed MALINGAI A8839 destroying 3 huts, a village at B0134 and DARAPAP C0883 destroying one hut.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4082. BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No 261

4083. NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No 94

4084. NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No 289

4085. NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No 280(as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

4086. BALIKPAPEN

2/16 Aust Inf Bn. Bn located SAMBODJA. Patrol engaged approx one Pl of enemy at 802997.

2/1 Aust Pnr Bn. Enemy of approx Pl strength were engaged at 521808.

Total casualties enemy 7 counted dead one PW.

4087. BRUNEI

Patrol activity continues.

Enemy casualties one counted dead.

4086. TARAKAN

Patrol captured one Jap.

G(Air)
5 Aug 45

for Lt Col GS

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No 275

WD.6

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 294
(Compiled from infm to 060900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4089 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 42 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacted enemy of unknown strength approx one mile NW of SHISHIMATERO at 120344.

KINGORAI. 24 Aust Inf Bn. A small enemy party is reported moving EAST from KINGORAI.

UPPER MIVO RIVER. RAFFLES FORCE. An OP has been established at KUMILOGO 219433 and an emy patrol is reported in the area. The TUGIOGU OP reports the enemy are raiding gardens approx ½ mile SW of TUGIOGU at 194379.

RUNAI. Our vehicle s were twice ambushed in the vicinity of the HONGORAI RIVER at 933392 resulting in casualties own 2 wounded.

AIR report that armed natives ambushed a party of Jap s in the LOBAI area. Scouts report that there are many enemy troops in the SANTARO area and that telephone line from UGUBAK-OGI to LULUAI RIVER crossing has been removed by enemy.

4090 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. One Jap was killed in B Coy area.

WAKUNAI. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol reports enemy activity SOUTH of WAKUNAI RIVER.

4091 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Following air strike, arty and mortar concentration, D Coy patrols occupied extensive bunkered positions in area 2870 encountering light opposition. A total of 43 bunkers was located in the area. Casualties enemy 5 killed 3 wounded own 2 wounded.

141 Aust Hvy AA Bty. During 4 and 5 Aug Bty engaged boats and enemy parties at BUKA and jetties in the CHINA-TOWN area. One boat was sunk and jetties were damaged.

NEW GUINEA

4092 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. Against stiff opposition our troops captured RINDOGIM 2894 killing 10 Japs and a further pocition at B274947 was occupied.

35 Aust Inf Bn. A party of 12 Japs was engaged at 388005 and 2 were killed. Four of the enemy were wearing Aust clothing.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 17 killed own 2 killed 12 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols report WIHIBI CREEK is clear to 852990 and that the villages of AHEGULIM 836997, NAHIGILIM 842978 and LOWER MALAPEIM 841968 are also clear.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrols engaged 16 enemy at 855008 killing 6. A further patrol to SODIP 847003 sustained casualties one killed when it was fired on from the village. The area 828007 is reported clear.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Adv Bn HQ is now established at SIGORA 864910. A patrol en route to KIARIVU 959965 report 20 Japs sighted moving SOUTH along the MANAMBERA RIVER.

2 NGIB. A patrol to MIVAMBOLA 834913 have contacted enemy in strength.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 13 killed own one killed.

OWN AIROPS

4093 BOUGAINVILLE

28 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy stores and personnel areas MAIKA 366356 destroying 13 huts and 2 trucks and damaging 1 truck. 20 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed stores area approx 1 mile WEST of MAIKA 351349, one hut was damaged. 12 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed KARA airstrip. One bomb to the WEST raised a column of smoke to 1000 ft. 23 CORSAIRS supporting 8 Aust Inf Bn bombed and strafed defensive positions BUOI 286707 to 284705 with unobserved results. 8 JACQUINOT BAY VENTURAS bombed AA gun SOHANA ISLAND with 500 lb bombs with unobserved results.

4094 NEW BRITAIN

15 CORSAIRS accurately bombed supply tunnels and personnel areas RAPOPO 033218 causing two large explosions. 25 huts were destroyed, 4 damaaged. One truck was strafed and burnt and four trucks were damaged. 6 MITCHELLS bombed troop concentrations and bivouac areas NE RABAUL, results were unobserved. 5 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas three miles SW RALUANA POINT where one hit caused white smoke to 500 ft. 3 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas NORTH of VUNAKANAU without inflicting any damage.

4095 NEW GUINEA

3 armed recce BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed defensive position A8202 killing two Japs. Huts at KANGANAMAN A9437 were strafed and one destroyed. YARANGAI 734364 and village at 875966 were also attacked, three huts at the latter being fired.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4096 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

4097 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94

4098 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No.289.

4099 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

4100 BALIKPAPAN

2/ 5 Aust Cdo Sqn relieved 2/3 Aust Cdo Sqn MT 616755.

Active patrolling continues in all sectors.

Enemy casualties 24 counted dead.

4101 BRUNEI

Patrolling continues in all sectors.

Enemy casualties 8 counted dead.

4102 TARAKAN

26 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols killed 4 Japs and captured 1 PW.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
6 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WD 7

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 295
(Compiled from infm to 070900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4103 AIB reports the total number of Japs reported to have been killed in the BOUGAINVILLE area for the month of Jul to be 509

4104 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol contacted enemy positions at 113331, 112332 and 114338 resulting in own casualties 1 killed. Two dead Japs were found in the Bde area.

KINGORAI. 24 Aust Inf Bn. Our patrol was ambushed by 6/10 Japs on the URAI KINGORAI track approx 043405, own casualtios 1 wounded. Enemy then withdrew to the EAST.

HONGORAI. The enemy made an unsuccessful attempt to damage HONGORAI bridge. Later 15 Japs were sighted in the TOHU area approx 963421.

AIB. Our patrol ambushed a party of Japs near TSUREKU killing six. Reports indicate reinforcements or relief party of about 20 Japs arrived in area from KIATU 223447.

4105 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol reports enemy positions at 693197 and 616217 in the vicinity of NUSISIPOK. Increasing enemy activity observed in the WAKUNAI area.

AIB. Scouts from KIETA area report Japs in strength along MONSIKA and TUBORO RIVERS (224917). The Japs are building a strong point at the foot of a hill at approx 224909. Scouts were unable to approach KIETA PENINSULA as many of the enemy are in this area.

4106 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. Patrols active, no contacts.

27 Aust Inf Bn. Dispositions: D Coy 293699 and C Coy 240634.

141 Aust Evy AA Bty. Bty engaged SOHANA guns which did not return fire.

NEW BRITAIN

4107 WIDE BAY

28 Aust Inf Bn. A platoon patrol along the LEMINGI track to 735620 bivouacked the night 6/7 Aug at 735606. Eight unoccupied huts were found at 738592.

NEW GUINEA

4108 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. The EAST end of NUMOIKUM villages has been captured. Native sentries report that Japs moved from NUMOIKUM in the direction of PAPARAN abandoning weapons, ammunition and equipment. Our patrols along tracks RINDOGIM, PASSAM, PAPARAN and KASUAN report no movement seen.

33 Aust Inf Bn. Feature W4100 is reported clear of enemy.

2/3 Aust MG Bn. Patrol found position 363003 abandoned by estimated 20 Japs.

2/6 Aust Cav (Cdo) Regt. RPC patrols are active in the KARAWAP area W0824.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 16 killed.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Track junction 853997 captured and SARGINYAN 847978 now occupied.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. SODIP 847003 cleared. Our troops captured the position 836008.

2 NGIB. A patrol to 838915 reports L of C not recently used.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 7 killed own 5 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

4109 BOUGAINVILLE

17 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed hut concentration at MUGUAI 355386 destroying twelve huts. 16 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed enemy occupied huts at TOBAGO 326409 destroying ten huts. 5 VENTURAS bombed AA positions SOHANA ISLAND.

4110 NEW BRITAIN

16 CORSAIRS bombed ravine with dumps, stores MT at 004174. Fifteen huts and store houses were destroyed, one truck and fuel dump burnt, three trucks and six huts damaged and three tunnels caved in. 6 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas three miles SOUTH RALUANA POINT with good coverage. 11 MITCHELLS bombed supply and stores areas at RABAUL, causing a large explosion with black smoke to 1000 ft. 14 CORSAIRS bombed TORIT 290770 destroying four huts and damaging two.

4111 NEW GUINEA

21 BEAUFORTS supporting fighting patrols bombed and strafed enemy dug in defence positions MALABEIM 843964 covering slope and northern end of village. 3 armed recce BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed MALINGAI 8839 destroying one hut NOGOSOP 9546 and destroyed two huts and damaged one at WEREMAN 7352.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4112 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

4113 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4114 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4115 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No. 280(as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

4116 BALIKPAPAN

Active patrolling continues.

2/1 Aust Pnr Bn. Patrol contact at 537805.

Enemy casualties 8 killed.

4117 BRUNEI

Patrol activity with minor contacts in the PADAS RIVER area.

Enemy casualties 2 killed.

4118 TARAKAN

Patrols captured 1 wounded.

for Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
7 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WD 8

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 296
(Compiled from infm to 080900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4119 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. On the night 6/7 Aug hostile shells from four guns fell in the Bn area. On 7 Aug a patrol contact took place in the vicinity of the BUIN ROAD to the WEST of the crossing at 107324.

TOHO. 57/60 Aust Inf Bn. A Coy is now located astride a ridge to the WEST of RUNAI at 965401 and B Coy is located WEST of the HARI RIVER at 002383. Some vehicles were ambushed SOUTH of TOHOat 960415 by a party of 20 Japs armed with LMGs, mortars and grenades, own casualties 5 killed 10 wounded with two vehicles damaged. A patrol later on moved to the ambushed position but report the Japs had moved away to the NE.

AIB reports there are no enemy NORTH of line 390 EAST of line 400 SOUTH of line 554 except the enemy concentration at SANTARO. Enemy positions are reported along both sides of the MONKIRI RIVER from 220910 to 223904 with the main camp at the foot of hill at 224907. Enemy are also camped along both banks of the TUBORO RIVER from the mouth to the junction at 228906 where the main body is located.

4120 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Ten Japs are reported to be in defensive position a mile to the NE of B Coy at 703196.

WAKUNAI. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol ambushed a party of 10 Japs in the BURITSIOTORARA area at 658251 killing 5.

AIB. The enemy are reported to be proceeding from the KOIKOI-WAKUNAI area to ASITAVI 746330 by canoe. The entire area between KEVISIA and TEIHUP is now clear of the enemy.

4121 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. B Coy has now relieved D Coy at 289702 and D Coy is now located at 289684. A patrol engaged enemy of unknown strength to the NORTH of BUOI PLANTATION at 276705, own casualties 1 killed.

27 Aust Inf Bn. A Coy located at 304694 with a platoon at 312691 and B Coy are now at 305682

AIB parties report that the islands of TROKI-SSO and MANUS are clear of the enemy. Interrogations of BUKA and MATSUNGAN natives indicate that the Japs are concentrating in the HOHEILA area 184833. Parties of one or two Japs are, however, left in each village with some KIMBIS with orders that if any more natives leave the village the village is to be destroyed.

NEW BRITAIN

4122 WIDE BAY

AIB. Japs are reported to be in the area 4773.

NEW GUINEA

4123 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops attacked the NUMOIKUM villages and captured BARKIMBEM 269951 coming under heavy fire from the villages of KUIMBAU 268953, WARIAWAW 267953. Supported by artillery and flame throwers our troops then captured these villages and exploited to KUIMBIPA 264955 and MEWIN 264956. 13 Japs were killed in the action and it is estimated a force of 50 Japs is still in the vicinity of NUMOIKUM.

Total casualties, enemy 18 killed, own 1 killed 2 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Advance HQ is now established at the village of AHEGULIM 835976. The village of YABU 848972 has now been captured by our troops.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols have cleared a position to the NORTH of KABOIBUS 837008 and report that enemy parties occupy positions at 824023 and MOMONGOL 847007.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn, with A Coy 2 NGIB under command is now en route to the area 9494. Standing patrol at 882980 ambushed and killed three Japs moving SOUTH.

2 NGIB. Engagements took place in areas 8293, 8292 and 8691 and Japs are reported to be in strength in the vicinity of BIAORA 858917.

Total casualties enemy 21 killed own 1 native soldier killed.

AIB. Japs are still concentrated at WEREMAN 7352, PAGWI 6752 and at 8445 but no movement is reported to the SOUTH of the SEPIK RIVER. The Japs are also concentrated at JAMA 6164 to meet an expected attack by NGIB. Enemy parties at JAPANDAI 6243, YUMANUMBO 6549 and CHAMBRI 8027 are organising food supplies for the troops in the WEREMAN area. A further report states that the natives at WASHKUJ 3537 and SESERIMAN 3038 are still pro Jap and are at present celebrating a Japanese festival.

SEA. 6 Aug two motor launches strafed tracks in the vicinity of KAUP and possible targets WEST along the coast to TEREBU.

OWN AIROPS

4124 BOUGAINVILLE

32 CORSAIRS bombed and strafed huts concentrated in the MAIKA area 345349 and 348354 destroying four huts. 17 CORSAIRS bombed huts and enemy concentrations at KIKIBATSIAGO 320400. Four huts were destroyed and a large explosion and flash observed. 16 CORSAIRS bombed bivouac area EAST of MULIKO RIVER 340346 to 343348 with unobserved results.

4125 NEW GUINEA

3 BEAUFORTS on armed recce bombed and strafed villages B0134, PALIMBAI 895395 destroying one hut and MALINGAI 8839 destroying two huts. Villages along the SEPIK RIVER from MURUI A6653 to MOIM B6442 were strafed.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4126 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

4127 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4128 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4129 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

4130 BALIKPAPAN

2/16 Aust Inf Bn. Active patrolling continues and several contacts were made.

Total casualties enemy six killed two PW.

4131 TARAKAN

26 Aust Inf Bde. Patrols report two Japs killed twelve PW taken.

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
8 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WD 9

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 297
(Compiled from infm to 090900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4132 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol base has been established to the EAST of the river at 153353. Patrol contacts were made in the area of the river SOUTH of the BUIN ROAD at 107323 and 113329. Own casualties one killed two wounded.

PIB patrol encountered an enemy party of unknown strength to the EAST of the river along the COMMANDO ROAD at 116401 killing 12 and wounding a further 12. Own casualties one wounded.

AIB report that 10 Japs were killed in a booby trap on 6 Aug between KEHEMONA and TSUREKU at 300590. A second party of eight arrived shortly afterwards and three of these were shot by our scouts. Scouts also report the most southern enemy outpost from KIETA is on the AREVARO RIVER near the garden 256885.

4133 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. A platoon supported by arty and mortars occupied the enemy position 700196.

PIB patrol surprised 15 Japs bathing in the stream at 710188 and killed 12.

4134 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. C Coy is now located at 289684 and D Coy at 240635.

PIB patrol killed 16 Japs in an encounter to the SOUTH of RURI BAY 331717.

NEW GUINEA

4135 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 16 Aust Inf Bde. Our troops have now cleared SAKIYU 263953 and have engaged the enemy to the SW of RINDO-GIM at 279487. The action is continuing.

8 Aust Inf Bde. Patrol activity throughout the day accounted for 5 Japs killed 1 PW.

Total casualties enemy 9 killed 1 PW, own 2 wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols engaged Japs in area to the NE of MALABEIM and KABOIBUS areas 8597 and 8599.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. A Patrol has engaged Jap position to the NE of KABOIBUS at 856002.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Small parties of Japs have been encountered during the advance to the NE.

Total casualties enemy 7 killed own 1 killed 1 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

4136 BOUGAINVILLE

33 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentrations at KARA 280368.

4137 NEW BRITAIN

12 VENTURAS and 23 CORSAIRS bombed personnel areas in the vicinity of TOKUA PLANTATION 0220. 55 huts were destroyed and a further 30 damaged, two tunnels were opened up and fuel fires started causing large explosion with smoke to 1000 ft.

4138 NEW GUINEA

3 BEAUFORTS bombed enemy positions in the vicinity of BIAORA 843918. 3 BEAUFORTS on armed recce attacked enemy occupied villages along the SEPIK and KARAWARI RIVERS.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4139 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

4140 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4141 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4142 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No. 280(as amended)

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
9 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WD 10

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No 298. SECRET
(Compiled from infm to 1[illegible]0900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4132. SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. Following air strikes on enemy positions at 113329 a patrol has reported the area clear of enemy. Our arty engaged an enemy position at 150350 which had been located by a patrol from OAMAI base and a patrol SOUTH of the BUIN road and EAST to ARU ambushed a Jap ration party at 163320. Casualties enemy ten killed one wounded.

42 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol base has been established at 135323.

47 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol was engaged by enemy of unknown strength at 097363 killing one of our troops and wounding a further two.

MOBIAI RIVER. ANGAU patrol to the coast killed three Japs at 028277 and report a further party in the vicinity of 053260.

AIB. Natives report an enemy outpost on KURUKI ISLAND 200100 and that fires had been seen at night on the Island.

4133. CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy snipers have been extremely active forward of our platoon position at 700196 and a PIB patrol which moved 900 yards forward contacted a party of 15 to 20 Japs killing one.

4134. NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy AA gun on SOHANA ISLAND engaged a VENTURA aircraft but was silenced by our HAA.

4135. NAVAL.

Night 8/9 Aug, two MLs engaged enemy barge carrying troops off TAKI scoring direct hits. 9 Aug, HMAS LITHGOW bombarded hut concentrations at TEIHUP 727370 and INUS 704469. HMAS DIAMANTINA engaged targets in the BONUS plantation.

NEW GUINEA

4136. WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR.2/2 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy position at 276943 was captured and continuing their advance our troops engaged a further position at 274940. RPC patrol reports 100 Japs at KWOIAHUH ref 158958, 79 Japs at PAPANYA 192951 and 66 Japs at SASSUIA villages 1793.

Total casualties enemy nine killed own one killed six wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol operating EAST across the WIHIBI CREEK to 857992 made no contact and our troops have occupied NABLIBUK 851973.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Positions at 824023 and 829031 are now clear the enemy having withdrawn towards BANAHITAM.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Following a successfull ~~strike~~ KAIRIVU ELG 9596 was secured against slight opposition and the natives report enemy is moving NE towards AMBAKUNJA. Bn HQ now established at 949945.

Total casualties enemy two killed.

OWN AIROPS

4137. BOUGAINVILLE

16 CORSAIRS attacked and cleared enemy defensive positions on the MEVO RIVER at 113329 to 114329. 15 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentrations in the vicinity of KARA 280368. 10 VENTURAS bombed the gun installations at SOHANA and 20 tons of bombs straddled the NORTHERN gun.

4138. NEW BRITAIN

5 MITCHELLS bombed stores and enemy concentrations at TAWUI POINT and 6 MITCHELLS bombed stores and bivouac areas at VUNAKANAU. 6 MITCHELLS bombed bivouac areas one mile SW of DAVUAN but caused no damage. 9 CORSAIRS successfully bombed supply and personnel areas at KARAVAT 708232 destroying ten huts damaging seven huts and causing one large explosion. A CORSAIR was hit by AA near LIVUAN 955189 and the pilot was forced to bail out six miles EAST of PUTPUT. Pilot was later rescued by CATALINA.

4139. NEW GUINEA

13 BEAUFORTS supported the 2/7 Aust Inf Bn in their attack on KAIRIVU ELG. Three armed recce BEAUFORTS attacked the Jap occupied villages of ANGERMAN 1124, MINDIBIT 0928 and YERIMBIT 9512 destroying a total of five huts.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4140. BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No 261.

4141. NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No 94.

4142. NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No 289.

4143. NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No 280 (as amended)

OTHER FRONTS

BORNEO

4144. BALIKPAPAN

2/16 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol from SAMBODJA reached SAMARINDA 666925.

2/9 Aust Inf Bn. Occupied PAMALOEAN 3885. Casualties enemy nine killed.

G (Air)
10 Aug 45.
Distribution: As for ALO Bulletin No 275.

Lt Col
GS

WD/11

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 299
(Compiled from Infm to 110900K)

GENERAL

4145 USE OF LIAISON AND RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT ON BOUGAINVILLE

A striking tribute to the work of 84 Army Co-Op Wing RAAF is contained in Islands Area Intelligence Bulletin No. 209 of 2 Aug 45 and is reproduced for general interest.

OPERATIONS OF RAAF 84 WING. The tie-up between air, land and naval operations is nowhere better exemplified than in the duties performed by four different squadrons of RAAF aircraft which are at the present time flying a multitude of varied missions over BOUGAINVILLE. RAAF 84 Wing controls these four units which are 5 Tac/R Squadron, 17 AOP Flight, 36 Squadron Detachment and 10 LASU.

TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE AND TARGET IDENTIFICATION: Since their arrival on BOUGAINVILLE towards the end of last year, the BOOMERANGS and WIRRAWAYS of No. 5 Tac/R Squadron have played an extremely important part in co-ordinating, directing and assessing the operations of RNZAF CORSAIR strikes on the island. Early this year aircraft from this squadron gave Tac/R lead-ins to a majority of the strikes on pinpoint targets. As the CORSAIR pilots became more conversant with the area those duties were largely taken over by target marking aircraft - "Smokey Joes" - and strike co-ordinators. However, there are still numerous occasions on which Tac/R lead is desirable and indeed, during the past month there has been a slight increase in missions of this nature flown by Tac/R aircraft. These lead-ins have recently been mainly targets discovered by the BOOMERANGS or WIRRAWAYS or difficult AIB targets.

However, target marking is by no means the main duty of this squadron and the following is a further list of operational missions performed:

(a) Tac/R aircraft are held over specific areas on the main combat fronts, to pinpoint and study enemy areas of activity. Defences, track activity, troop movement and bivouacs are all noted and detailed reports of their observations are dropped at divisional and brigade Headquarters by the aircraft on their way back to their base. In this way headquarters are kept informed and are also able to communicate to forward units with a minimum of delay the latest enemy dispositions.

(b) Artillery reconnaissance and the direction of Australian artillery fire is another function frequently performed. In this way the gunners are speedily directed on to enemy concentrations, defences and bivouacs. Of a somewhat similar nature is the assistance rendered by Tac/R aircraft in the ranging of pinpoints for artillery survey work.

(c) While carrying out reconnaissance over enemy territory, Tac/R aircraft frequently encounter targets of opportunity and there, as is frequently the case, these are in restricted areas, the pilot calls up forward Headquarters for permission to strafe or else notifies the duty battery which can then be directed on to the objective.

(d) Photographs are also frequently taken and these consist of line overlaps or obliques. Strike assessment on such photographs has in the past proved very helpful to fighter bombers, while target photographs often provide the basis for strike briefing by ALOs.

(d) Where ground patrols, operating in enemy territory have lost touch with their base, sometimes due to their "walkie-talkies" being out of range, Tac/R have acted as a communication channel with ease and have kept Headquarters informed of the patrol location.

(f) Recently Tac/R aircraft have co-operated with the Royal Australian corvettes and frigate that have been shelling BUKA and BOUGAINVILLE targets. These shoots are directed from the air and have resulted in the destruction of a number of coastal targets such as huts built into caves and coastal defences which are practically impossible targets for air or artillery attack. In a RAN shoot conducted last week, Tac/R confirmed the destruction of 18 huts and damage to a similar number. These objectives have mostly been on the east coast of BUKA and BOUGAINVILLE.

(g) It is frequently advisable for Army observers to be taken to areas over which ground operations are pending or in progress and No. 5 Squadron has carried out such flights.

(h) Finally there has been one instance where a Tac/R aircraft has acted as a tank director spotting and reporting to the tank and its accompanying patrol the dispositions, traps and defences ahead of the tanks. This function, however, has since been taken over by AUSTERS of 17 AOP Flight, which by virtue of their slower speed have proved eminently suitable for tank co-operation.

OPERATIONS OF "BISCUIT BOMBERS". With their communication lines bogged down and their roads cut by bursting swamps, the forward Australian troops beyond the MOBIAI RIVER (SW BOUGAINVILLE) have relied to a very great extent during the past month on the two C47's ("Biscuit Bombers") of 36 Squadron, (RAAF) for their essential supplies.

On 23rd and 24th July when conditions were at their worst, these aircraft were kept going almost continuously. Indeed, on one of these days one pilot flew 8 missions. During the week ended 28th July, 71 missions were flown and 365,000 lbs of supplies were carried in and dropped by these aircraft. The need for supplies, however, was so great that on the two most critical days 18 missions were flown and 96,537 lbs of supplies were also dropped by MAG 25 aircraft The total weight of supplies dropped by the two No. 36 Squadron aircraft from 1st to 28th July was 1,021,470 lbs in 196 missions, an average of 5212 lbs per mission. This however was not the peak, as in May the same detachment dropped 1,267,242 lbs (565 long tons).

Most of these supplies were taken to forward AIF units, but there were also considerable quantities taken in to AIB parties and deep patrols by RAFFLES FORCE.

In these missions pilots have developed a very accurate technique for dropping and the story is told of the package which was dropped on top of a patrol's hut. The aircraft received the reply from the patrol "Thanks, but we can stack it on the shelves".

LEAFLET DROPS AND COMMUNICATIONS. Although primarily a communication flight - 10 LASU, which operates BEAUFORTS - has also assumed a multitude of other duties. In addition to a courier service to other islands, these aircraft have also carried the majority of FELO leaflets dropped on enemy territory on BOUGAINVILLE. Reconnaissance flights and supply dropping missions are also undertaken.

FRONT LINE LIAISON BY AUSTERS. With only an endurance of about 90 minutes it has been necessary to base the AUSTERS of 17 AOP on short strips near the front lines. The building of these strips has been of almost equal importance to road making. In SW BOUGAINVILLE AUSTERS have been operating off a small strip near DARARA Ford known as OXLEY FIELD - named for F/O OXLEY, a RAAF No.5 Tac/R Squadron pilot lost of SIPAAI.

However, a new strip 410 yards long has just been completed near the MOBIAI. This strip was named for a RNZAF pilot, F/Sgt. H.H. DONALDSON (No. 23 Squadron) who crashed in the sea near the mouth of the MOBIAI RIVER on 4th July, 1945.

AUSTERS are eminently suited to operate low over the jungle and have a great variety of uses. In addition to use as communication aircraft, they are also employed extensively on reconnaissance missions and as spotters. In detecting enemy gun positions it is said that AUSTERS come in over tree tops and cut their engines to listen for gun fire.

One of their most useful functions has been that of tank leaders as it has been found that excellent two way communication can be maintained between tanks and AUSTERS which fly ahead of the tanks to seek out enemy concentrations and anti-tank traps.

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4146 SOUTHERN SECTOR

HIVO RIVER. 15 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol from the OAMAI base sighted 20 Japs on the WEST bank of the river at 145346 and an enemy party was ambushed in the vicinity of the crossing at 147323. Three Japs were killed in the engagement.

MOBIAI RIVER. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged 20 Japs in a defensive position near gardens at 061377, casualties 5 enemy killed.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn. Bn is now concentrated in the OAMAI area and is disposed as follows: Bn HQ 020370, A Coy 017373, B Coy 017372, C Coy 019372, D Coy 020369.

AIB reports there are approx 60 enemy located to the SW of KIKIBATSIAGO at 331391.

4147 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Forward platoons engaged the enemy position at 702197 and the enemy withdrew to the NORTH.

4148 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. A Jap position of estimated strength 20/25 at 290709 was engaged by our artillery. HAA supported the air strike by five VENTURAS on the guns at SOHANA.

NEW BRITAIN

4149 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. A Coy plus 7 plus 7 Pl is now concentrated in the SIAR RIVER area at 256568.

NEW GUINEA

4150 MADANG

SAIDOR. Radar station at SAIDOR reports the station was completely destroyed by a party of Japs on 6 Aug. A later report reveals that a quantity of 20 bags of rice were stolen from the ANGAU store. A large party of Japs is known to be operating in the SAIDOR area.

4151 WEWAK

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Troops have now captured ULAKAN 854977 and the feature 896988.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols engaged a party of 20 Japs SOUTH of BIAORA at 859003 and report the village of MOMONGOL 847007 is now clear.

2 NGIB. One Jap officer and 15 O/Rs surrendered to our troops in the area 8292. After sustained patrolling our troops captured MYAMBORA 840918 and patrols engaged Japs in the vicinity of the SUAUI and CHAGULEM villages.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Our troops engaged further positions in the vicinity KIRIVU.

Total casualties not previously reported, enemy 36 killed 16 PW, own 3 killed 5 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

4152 BOUGAINVILLE

32 CORSAIRS caused a large explosion when they bombed personnel areas at KARA. 16 CORSAIRS attacked enemy concentrations at KIETA and a further 16 bombed Jap occupied huts at PIANO. 6 VENTURAS straddled a gun position on SOHANA ISLAND.

4153 NEW BRITAIN

10 CORSAIRS bombed huts and personnel areas at KERAVAT.

4154 NEW GUINEA

22 BEAUFORTS attacked enemy positions at 939973 and 3 BEAUFORTS on armed recce attacked the villages of ANGERMAN, KANGANAMAN and YENTCHEN.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4155 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3609 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

4156 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4157 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4158 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

F. B. Hodgson Capt
for Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
11 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WD 12

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 300
(Compiled from infm to 120900K)

GENERAL

4159 SEARCH OF THE CARTERETS AND THE MORTLOCKS - POSSIBLE HIDES FOR ENEMY SEAPLANE.

During the last half of last month, particularly on moonlit evenings, the Japanese apparently maintained some kind of aircraft patrol over the east coast of BOUGAINVILLE. It is thought probable that this air cover was in some way connected with the evacuation by barge and/or submarine of enemy troops cut off by partisans in the KIETA area. It is possible that this aircraft - it has been suggested that it might be a JAKE - may come from RABAUL, BUKA or SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE. However, a fourth possibility - the coral atolls of the CARTERETS and the MORTLOCKS to the NE has been considered. On 2nd August a reconnaissance was made of these islets. Two CORSAIRS carried out a low level reconnaissance while photographic coverage was made by a VENTURA. The photographs have not yet been assessed but the low level reconnaissance was negative.

While making their search the CORSAIRS dropped leaflets describing the course of the war and telling the natives to care for any castaways. At first on the approach of the aircraft the natives took cover, but were later seen in the open gesticulating and waving leaflets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTLOCKS. The TANU or MARQUEEN Group, known to all natives as the MORTLOCKS, is 120 miles NE of BOUGAINVILLE. The atoll, which is ring shaped, consists of about 20 islands, a few feet above sea level. The larger islands are planted with coconuts. Others are low and sandy. In all, there are about 200 acres of land in the group. The largest island, TAKU, has an area of about 130 acres.

The natives numbering between 170 and 200 are copper skinned, of fine physique and are friendly. They are of POLYNESIAN stock with a mixture of CAROLINE ISLAND, ADMIRALTY, BUKA and SAMOAN. They are fine canoe men and fishermen. Many can read and some have visited AUSTRALIA. The head man of the group is known as the KUKURAI and the next in line is the TUL TUL. There was formerly a private plantation on the atoll, but this was later resumed by the NG Administration in order to provide room for the increasing population. Latterly there has been a trading station in the group, the last trader being a MALAY, who may still be there. The group and the CARTERETS were last visited by ship in late 1941 - the MAKO from RABAUL.

Leaflets were dropped on the MORTLOCKS and also the CARTERETS by a RNZAF VENTURA early in 1944. These warned the natives not to assist the Japanese on pain of bombing reprisals.

The original plantation on the MORTLOCKS was developed when the islands were a GERMAN possession, by a SAMOAN woman who married an ENGLISHMAN and who, with two other later husbands, she buried on the islands. She herself was eventually badly injured while dynamiting fish on the reef and died en route to KIETA.

The last white man to live on the MORTLOCKS was an ex-Airman of the last war who up to 1935 spent seven years on the islands. He taught the natives much of ENGLISH ways and histroy, and tried to implant in them a respect for the BRITISH EMPIRE.

THE CAPTERET GROUP OR GREEN ISLAND. KILINA ILAU, or the CARTERET GROUP, was known to all natives as GREEN ISLAND - a name which has caused some confusion owing to the fact that the NISSAN Group to the NORTH on which NEW ZEALAND troops landed and from which RNZAF aircraft operated was also labelled GREEN ISLAND.

The CARTERETS are a circular atoll about 10 miles in diameter 43 miles NE of BUKA. There are six islands in the group. They are low and sandy and for the most part are covered with coconut palms. The natives, who are dark skinned MELANESIAN type, number about 400. Many of them have served as deck hands on island schooners and can read. They are described as gentle and friendly folk.

There was a trading station on these islands which was usually run by an ASIATIC. The last trader, who left there in 1939 when copra prices slumped, was a JAPANESE. He purchased copra from the natives and shipped it to RABAUL every three months.

In March, 1944, PT boats from NISSAN (GREEN) contacted natives and found them friendly. They said that no JAPANESE had landed on the CARTERETS, although in 1942 the islands were bombed by the Japanese. Prior to the arrival of traders the CARTERET natives used to trade with the HANAHAN (BUKA) natives, making the voyage in large canoes.

(Extract from RNZAF Int Bulletin No.209 of 2 Aug 45)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4160 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MIVO RIVER. 42 Aust Inf Bn. Aggressive patrolling continues SOUTH of the BUIN ROAD and when our patrol attempted to destroy 37 mm guns at 145324 hostile enemy rifle fire engaged our troops.

47 Aust Inf Bn. PIB patrol from C Coy joined a 24 Aust Inf Bn patrol and attacked enemy positions approx one mile NE UMAI 055403. Three Japs killed.

24 Aust Inf Bn. Minor skirmishes are reported by our patrols SOUTH of COMMANDO ROAD. Strongly defended enemy dug in positions approx 50 strong was attacked with JUKI LMG and after engagement our troops withdrew to Bn HQ. Casualties enemy unknown own 1 killed 2 wounded. Later position was registered by our arty.

4161 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 27 Aust Inf Bn. During the Morning 11 Aug Japs ambushed our jeep train EAST of the BUOI PLANTATION at 298699. Casualties enemy 1 killed own 2 killed 1 wounded.

8 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol generally active and our arty engaged the following targets obtaining good coverage, Japanese occupied huts in the vicinity of the PORTON PLANTATION at 264728 and 259752 and defensive position and suspected gun position at 314742 and 232740 respectively. A premature burst killed 3, wounded 3 from D Tp.

NEW BRITAIN

4162 WIDE BAY

NGIB patrols report enemy approx 30/40 strong are occupying gardens at 711642 and a further party of unknown strength are located in garden at 719642.

NEW GUINEA

4163 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. 2/2 Aust Inf Bn. 32 Japs were reported to be dug in astride the BIG ROAD at B253944 SW NUMOIKUM villages.

8 Aust Inf Bde. Our patrols operating SOUTH of MT TAZAKI killed 7 Japs at B3399.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 8 killed.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Patrolling SOUTH of the KABOIBUS villages at A856990 our troops engaged 10/15 Japs occupying dug in position and report a sighting of a further 15/20 Japs preparing new defences at 848968.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Following an air strike our troops engaged Japanese positions in the vicinity V856004.

2 NGIB. A further party of 17 Japs including 1 captain surrendered to our troops at A8392. KWIMU village at A833917 is reported clear and our troops now occupy the knoll A825929. Bn HQ established at A817914.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Well prepared positions approx 1 mile WSW of MALABIN were engaged by our troops and the action continues.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy 30 killed 17 PW, own 2 killed 2 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

4164 BOUGAINVILLE

Adverse weather conditions still prevailed and only one strike is reported in SOUTHERN BOUGAINVILLE when 16 CORSAIRS bombed enemy concentrations at KIETA. Due to low cloud base results were unobserved.

4165 NEW BRITAIN

JACQUINOT BAY based RNZAF fighter and medium bombers attacked selected targets at KABAGADA 690281. 15 Huts were destroyed and four huts, a tank and a truck were damaged. 17 CORSAIRS bombed supply and personnel areas in the vicinity of CAPE LIGUAN destroying two huts.

4166 NEW GUINEA

23 BEAUFORTS again supported our troops in a ground attack on an enemy occupied village at V859003. Two huts were destroyed.

PHOTO COVERAGES

NEW BRITAIN

4167

Title	:	ATALIKLIKUN HARBOUR AREA
Mission	:	152P CRTC
Serial Nos.	:	Run 1 1 - 33, Run 2 34 - 61, Run 3 62-89 Run 4 90-111, Run 5 112-134, Run 6 134-159
Co-ords	:	See sketch map attached
RF	:	1:10000
Scn	:	CRTC
Date	:	7 Jun 45
Maps	:	ATALIKLIKUN - BLANCHE BAY 1st Prov
Type	:	K17 Vertical
Quality	:	Good

4168	Title:	:	CAPE POMAS - PONDO PT
	Mission	:	152P CRTC
	Serial Nos	:	Run 1 1 - 25, Run 2 26 - 62
	Co-ords	:	See sketch map attached
	RE	:	1:10000
	Sqn	:	CRTC
	Date	:	7 Jun 45
	Maps	:	STOCKHOLM - PONDO 1" Prov
	Type	:	K17 Vertical
	Quality	:	Good
4169	Title	:	RABAUL AREA
	Mission	:	152P CRTC
	Serial Nos	:	
	Co-ords	:	See sketch map attached
	RF	:	1:30000
	Sqn	:	CRTC
	Date	:	7 Jun 45
	Maps	:	MASSAVA BAY, ATALIKLIKUN, BLANCHE BAY RABAUL, DUKE OF YORK, GAZELLE 1" Prov
	Type	:	K17 V rtical
	Quality	:	Good
4170	Title	:	CAPE GAZELLE
	Mission	:	151P CRTC
	Serial Nos	:	Run 1 1 - 12, Run 2 13 - 28 Run 4 47-66 Run 5 67-87, Run 6 88-107, Run 7 108-125 Run 8 126-145, Run 9 146-168, Run 10 169-182
	Co-ords	:	See sketch map attached
	RF	:	1:10000
	Sqn	:	CRTC
	Date	:	6 Jun 45
	Maps	:	GAZELLE 1" Prov
	Type	:	K17 Vertical
	Quality	:	Good
4171	Title	:	TALELE ISLAND CAPE POMAS
	Mission	:	151P CRTC
	Serial Nos	:	Run 1 1-20,Run2 21-40,Run3 41-56,Run4 57-92
	Co-ords	:	See sketch map attached
	RF	:	1:10000
	Sqn	:	CRTC
	Date	:	6 Jun 45
	Maps	:	CAPE LAMBERT STOCKHOLM PONDO 1" Prov
	Type	:	K17 Vertical
	Quality	:	Good
4172	Title	:	RABAUL - CAPE POMAS
	Mission	:	151P CRTC
	Serial Nos.	:	Runs1-13 Print Nos 1-705
	Co-ords	:	See sketch map attached
	RF	:	1:10000
	Sqn	:	CRTC
	Date	:	6 Jun 45
	Maps	:	CAPE LAMBERT, STOCKHOLM, MASSAVA BAY, ATALIKLIKUN, RABAUL, BLANCHE BAY 1" Prov
	Type	:	K17 Vertical
	Quality	:	Good
4173	Title	:	ATALIKLIKUN BAY AREA
	Mission	:	145P CRTC
	Serial Nos	:	Runs 1 - 11, Prints 1 - 432.
	Co-ords	:	See sketch map attached
	RF	:	1:10000
	Sqn	:	CRTC
	Date	:	31 May 45
	Maps	:	CAPE LAMBERT, STOCKHOLM, ATALIKLIKUN, RABAUL, BLANCHE BAY MASSAVA BAY 1" Prov
	Type	:	K17 Vertical
	Quality	:	Good

4174 Title : EAST COAST ALONG WIDE BAY
Mission : 144P CRTC
Serial Nos. : Runs 1 1-99, Runs 2 100-118, Runs 3 116-174, Runs 4 175-241
Co-ords : See sketch map attached
RF : 1:10000
Sqn : CRTC
Date : 30 May 45
Maps : RUGEN EVER BAY TOL 1" Prov
Type : K17 Vertical
Quality : Good

4175 Title : GAZELLE PENINSULA AREA
Mission : 144P CRTC
Serial Nos. : Runs 1-9 Print Nos 1-598
Runs 10-11 Print Nos 1-120
Co-ords : See sketch map attached
RF : 1:10000
Sqn : CRTC
Date : 30 May 45
Maps : RABAUL, BLANCHE BAY, GAZELLE 1" Prov
Type : K17 Vertical
Quality : Good

4176 Title : WEST COAST OPEN BAY
Mission : 144P CRTC
Serial Nos. : Run 1 1-54, Run 2 55-110
Run 3 111-160
Co-ords : See sketch map attached
RF : 1:10000
Sqn : CRTC
Date : 30 May 45
Maps : STOCKHOLM, PONDO, OPEN BAY 1" Prov
Type : K17 Vertical
Quality : Good

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4177 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

4178 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4179 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289

4180 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
12 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

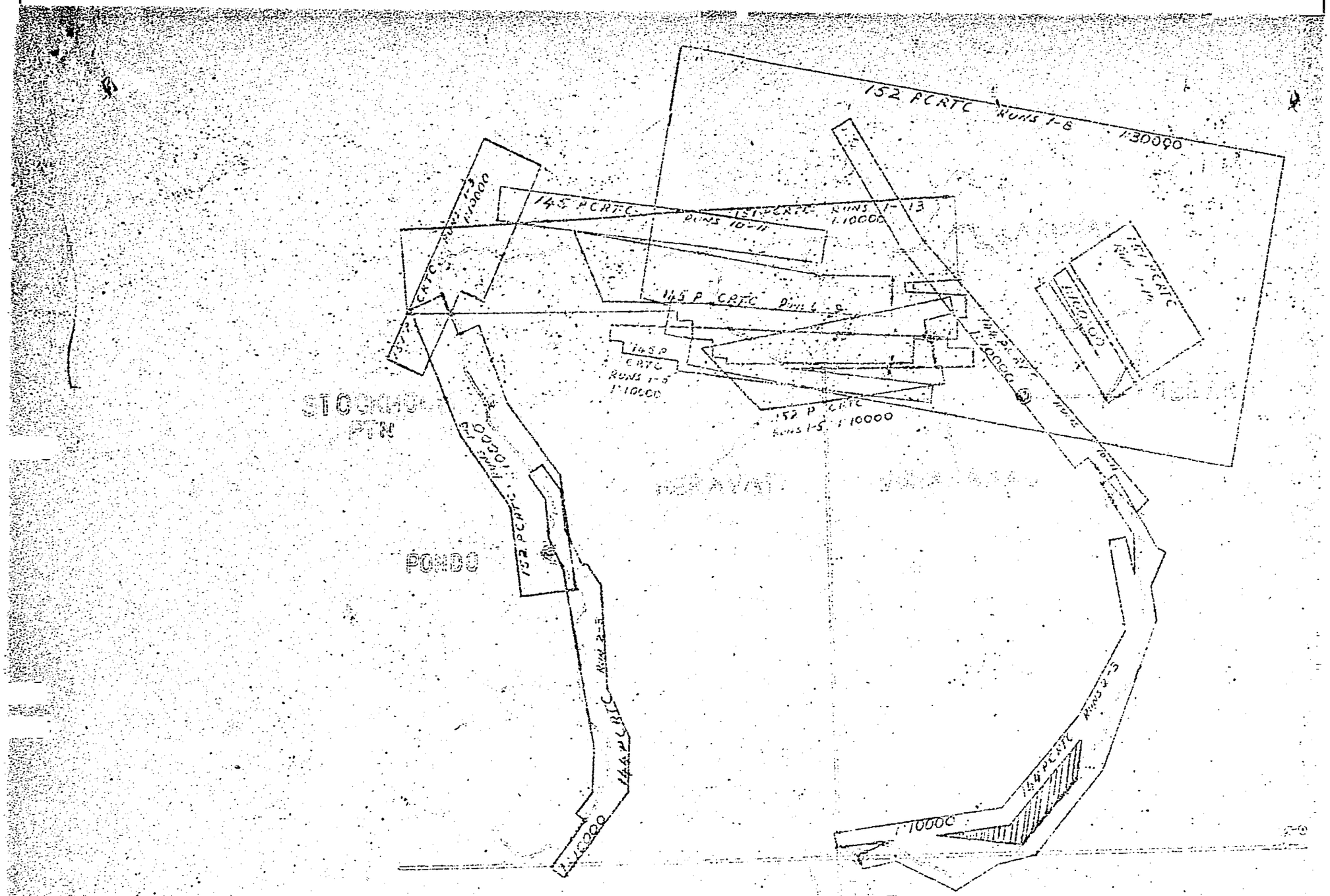

PHOTO COVERAGE
GAZELLE PEN.

Det Army Air Photo
Interpretation Group

8.S. 10/8/43

WD 13

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN NO. 301
(Compiled from infm to 130900K)

GENERAL

4181 CORSAIR SETS AN ENDURANCE RECORD

A Marine captain attached to VMF 215 Squadron set a new endurance record for single engine aircraft on May 13th when he kept his CORSAIR in flight for 14 hours and 7 seconds, bettering an unofficial record of 12 hours set by an Army Thunderbolt.

A report of this flight is reproduced from Air Op Memo issued by Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet.

The captain took off at 0647 with 752 gallons of gasoline distributed as follows:-

Main tank 237 gallons,
Two pylon tanks 165 gallons each.
One centre line tank 174 gallons.

When he landed at 2047.01, 33 gallons of gasoline remained in his main tank and the others were exhausted. Five gallons of oil were consumed during the flight. His average indicated speed on the flight was 134 knots.

The pilot's report on the flight contained the following conclusions: "The entire flight was flown with the parachute (R83-p-a-n 6510-1) life jacket and safety belt attached. I had the shoulder straps on at all times under 1,000 feet and when expecting a tank to run dry. I used a standard, but frequently unobtainable, rubber seafoam seat cushion. Circulation was good in my legs. My back and rear were only slightly cramped. I am certain that a flight of this duration would make the pilot acutely uncomfortable if he were using the regular issue mohair cushion. Discomfort leads to pilot fatigue and fatigue to accidents.

The engine had 251.6 total hours before this flight and 44.4 hours since the last 60 hour check and plug change. Engine was subsequently given a 60 hour check and no unusual wear was detected. The plane had 238.7 hours previous to this and was none the worse afterwards."

(Extract from RNZAF Intelligence Bulletin No.210 9 Aug 45)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4182 SOUTHERN SECTOR.

KINGORI. 24 Aust Inf Bn. A party of approx 20 Japs attacked our platoon position to the WEST of YEROKO at 057427. The attack was repulsed however and we suffered casualties 2 wounded with 4 natives wounded. The enemy position to the WEST of the MOBIAI RIVER at 055403 was found to be vacated.

MOBIAI RIVER. ANGAU patrol engaged enemy position on the western bank of the river at 0633 killing 2 Japs.

NEW BRITAIN

4183 WIDE BAY

1 NGIB patrol returned via ANGINI and report that the enemy occupy a garden area 7263 and are also astride the LEMINGI track at 751650.

NEW GUINEA

4184 WEWAK

COASTAL SECTOR. Patrol activity only.

Total casualties enemy 2 killed own one wounded.

INLAND SECTOR. 2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Our arty and mortars harassed the enemy position at 859003.

2 NGIB. A patrol killed 17 out of 20 Japs encountered in the vicinity of GWALIP village.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy positions in the areas 9799, 9693 and 9599 were engaged and our 75 mm guns engaged two enemy HQ positions, one to the NW KAIRIVU and the other to the EAST.

AIB report that the AVATIP natives killed 16 Japs, 3 pro Jap natives and captured 1 Jap officer at YENZANGAI 5343 on 10 Aug.

Total casualties enemy 35 killed, 1 PW, own 1 native soldier killed 2 wounded.

OWN AIROPS

4185 NEW BRITAIN

12 VENTURAS bombed buildings in the RABAUL area at 800366, one large explosion was caused with smoke to 1000 ft. 7 CORSAIRS bombed scattered huts and personnel areas KERAVAT vicinity 664699 destroying three huts and starting oil fires.

4186 NEW GUINEA

11 Aug 17 BEAUFORTS supported our ground troops when they bombed enemy positions SOUTH of KIARIVU 964961 with excellent coverage and ground troops report target obliterated. 12 Aug 27 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed enemy positions 839916 destroying huts and ammunition dump.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4187 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

4188 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4189 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4190 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280 (as amended)

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
13 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

W D 17

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 302
(Compiled from infm to 140900K)

GENERAL

4191 MARINE MITCHELLS IN BISMARCKS - SOLOMONS

An interesting review of First Marine Air Wing operations in the BISMARCKS - SOLOMONS area is reproduced from Islands Area Intelligence Bulletin No. 210 of 10 Aug 45.

METHODS EMPLOYED IN LONG TOUR OF SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS. After well over a year of operations in the BISMARCKS and the SOLOMONS, the First Marine Air Wing MITCHELLS of MAG 61, ceased operations on the 9th August. During that period the MARINE MITCHELLS (Nos 413, 423, 433 and 443 Squadrons) have, with RNZAF VENTURA Squadrons, made up the main medium bomber striking force of COMAIRNORSOLS and later Islands Area. Although latterly the MARINE MITCHELL's main task has been the subjugation of the Japanese garrisons on NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND, they have also in the past carried out extensive and effective attacks against BOUGAINVILLE. It is proposed in this report to give a review of the tactics and bombing methods employed during the past two or three months and also outline briefly some of the results achieved in their operations against targets on NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND during the same period. Photographs bear testimony of the trail of havoc these four MARINE MITCHELL Squadrons have left across the most valuable visible enemy defensive and personnel areas on the GAZELLE PENINSULA.

While carrying out tactical operations from their EMIRAU base the MARINE MITCHELLS developed effective routines. On receipt of targets on the afternoon prior to strikes a flight leaders' planning briefing was held. This was attended by squadron and flight leaders and group operations and intelligence officers. Next morning before take-off for the strike, a general briefing was held for all the aircrew.

TACTICS AND PROCEDURE AT MEDIUM ALTITUDE. In medium altitude strikes, bombing was carried out between 10,000 and 14,000 feet with a varied approach. Just prior to the bombing run an additional 500 feet of altitude was gained in order to gather more speed on the run. This was made at 165 knots and had a duration of from 30 to 45 seconds. In strikes of this nature bombs were fused with instantaneous settings.

In low altitude strikes, often at tree-top level, the approach was made whenever possible over a hil towards the target. High power settings (250 - 275 knots) were employed. Bombs on these strikes were fused with 8 to 11 second delays.

The usual flight procedure was for aircraft to take-off at 30 second intervals with each squadron making a rendezvous at the field. If more than one squadron was involved, the join-up of squadrons was usually made at some prominent geographical point 50 to 100 miles from the target. In the case of medium altitude strikes this was made at 10,000 feet while low altitude was at 3,000 feet.

Normally, each squadron consisted of three 3-plane sections, with sections in Vee's stepped down. The normal group formation was three or four squadrons in either Vee's or box formation with the wing squadron into sun stepped up.

Climbing to bombing or cruising altitude was carried out at 150 knots. Group formation was maintained in the bombing run or else squadrons go in at 45 second intervals in column. Squadrons were usually separated by 400 to 500 feet in altitude over the target.

After the bomb release the group or individual squadrons took gentle evasive action as they retired.

All aircraft released on the lead bombardier who had complete control over his aircraft using the SBAE auto pilot. The formation proceeded back to base, letting down (dependent on the weather) so as to arrive over the field at 2,000 feet. The break up was done by squadrons and landing was made at 30 second intervals.

LOW LEVEL STRIKES AND NIGHT HECKLING. Low altitude bombing was carried out with one squadron over the target at a time. A line abreast formation was used within squadrons and the interval between squadrons was usually 30 to 60 seconds.

A feature of the MAG 61 operations has been night heckling missions over KAVIENG and RABAUL. This was carried out by keeping two aircraft over the target area at all times during the heckling period. The approach to the area was made by the two MARINE MITCHELLS in formation. When over the target, one MARINE MITCHELL bombed while the second gave cover. After thirty minutes over the target there was a change over and the second aircraft bombed and the first gave cover. Usually night heckling was from 10,000 feet,. The bomb sight was used if the moon was up while if it was dark, bombing was by visual estimation or radar.

MARINE MITCHELL OPERATIONS OVER GAZELLE PENINSULA. From a target view point GAZELLE PENINSULA falls into two main divisions. These in turn are divided into a number of main areas and within these areas are the numbered targets. The MARINE MITCHELLS have for the most part been allocated targets in the north western division which embraces RABAUL, KABAGADA, VUNAKANAU and TOBERA areas. The second main division which roughly follows the line of the enemy's southern and eastern defensive line from KERAVAT, through MT VARZIN along the WARANGOI and up the east coast past KABANGA BAY to CAPE GAZELLE, has been allocated to the RNZAF CORSAIRS and VENTURAS at JACQUINOT BAY.

In the north western area over which the MARINE MITCHELLS have been working, there are 209 listed targets and although in the past two and a half months there have been a considerable number of strikes on these targets by VENTURAS from EMIRAU, before they secured at the beginning of July, the four MARINE MITCHELL squadrons have naturally made by far the largest number of attacks. There are still, however, about 55 per cent of the targets in this north west division that have not been attacked recently. Many of these, however, are categorised as secondaries.

MANY TARGETS ELIMINATED BY MITCHELLS. The toll taken of these targets by the MARINE MITCHELLS has, however, been very substantial and of the 94 targets attacked in the north western area, 21 have been written off during the period under review. This means that complete destruction of 22 per cent of these targets has been effected. In the RABAUL area there are 62 listed targets. Of these, 9 have been eliminated and many more so battered as to be relegated to a secondary classification. A review of some of those RABAUL targets which have been bombed out illustrates the effectiveness of the MARINE MITCHELL bombing. These targets that have been classified as eliminated, however, only represent a portion of the damage wreaked.

RABAUL No. 3 was a very active area SOUTH of RATAVAL in which the enemy held considerable stores. After being hit by 6 MARINE MITCHELLS on 16th June, PIU described the target as completely destroyed and advised its deletion as a target.

On the coast behind the TOBOI wharf were buildings, fuel storage tanks and a barge area. This target had been attacked on three occasions since the end of May, twice by VENTURAS and once by MARINE MITCHELLS. The VENTURAS had covered the south and western end of the target. On 16th July, 6 MARINE MITCHELLS carried out one of

the most spectacular bomb drops of recent months. Photographs taken before, during and after the strike showed a perfect pattern in the centre of the target. Fuel tanks and buildings were destroyed and an area surrounding the tanks cleared by fire and blast. The target is listed as destroyed.

Three targets, RABAUL Nos 16, 18, and 19, one of which consisted of 50 huts on the coast at NORDUP have also been eliminated as a result of MARINE MITCHELL strikes and although all the buildings have not been destroyed, the damage was such that the enemy apparently found no further use for the location. Other personnel targets, Nos 44 and 56, including one of 42 plus and one of 30 plus huts have also been removed. The latter target was hit by 25 MARINE MITCHELLS on 21st May and PIU reported 30 buildings destroyed.

A somewhat similar target RABAUL 39 at SULPHUR CREEK, a large underground personnel area and living quarters, was also written off after the MARINE MITCHELL attack on 8th July.

SIMILAR TREATMENT FOR OTHER GAZELLE AREAS. Although the number of targets completely written off is less in the KABAGADA, VUNAKANAU and TOBERA areas, these targets have received a smaller number of attacks and the ratio of targets eliminated to targets bombed is relatively the same as in the RABAUL area.

The latest target to be deleted was KABAGADA No. 19. This target, along with Nos. 15, 16, 17 and 18 was designated an area target and 21 MITCHELLS attacked the five combined targets. These consisted of possible Army and Navy workshops and a number of tunnel entrances. The PIU report on the photographs taken after the strike reveals bomb hits in three localities. In the first locality an underground storage cave received a direct hit and could be seen smoking 13 minutes after the strike. In addition, several tracks and gardens were damaged.

In the second locality, target No. 19 was hit. Ten huts were destroyed and 4 more were probably damaged. In the third locality just north of target No. 19, one road was torn up and another was damaged. The report concludes:

"As a result of this strike No. 19 is no longer considered of any importance."

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4192 CENTRAL SECTOR

7 Aust Inf Bn. A force of 15/20 Japs attacked our forward platoon EAST of CHARLIE CREEK but were repulsed with casualties.

4193 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Hostile shelling took place in the A Coy area and 59 rounds of heavy calibre caused no casualties.

NEW GUINEA

4193 HANSA BAY

Natives living in the TUNG area report the enemy may attempt to cross the RAMU.

4194 WEWAK

INLAND SECTOR. 2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Native patrol claims 21 Japs killed in the WIHUN area 8908 and 12 killings have been confirmed.

2 NGIB. HQ now established at 812913. Further Jap surrenders have taken place and 12 Japs including one captain surrendered in the MYAMBORA area 8491.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Bn HQ now located at 949970.

Total casualties enemy 20 killed 12 PW.

AIB. The following information has been obtained from Capt MATSUI 2 i/c of the 64 AA Regt who was recently captured by the AVATIP natives. He states that the officer in charge 64 AA Regt Maj AONU has his HQ with 30 men at WEREMAN 7352, 20 of the same Regt are at BENGIN 7354 and 15 at MEIWEI 7052. Col ASADA's force is now at BURUI and Lt Gen SHOGE is located at KARARAU 0232. He estimates that there are 30 Japs at SENGO 6057 and 120 at JAMA 6164, also approx 30 Japs at TIMBUNKE 2140 with an additional 30 Japs at CHAMBRI 8027. He also states that Maj Gen MANO is in the vicinity of KARARAU and that Gen ADAJHI is at TORONBI which is shown on a Jap map to be near KOROGO.

OWN AIROPS

4195 NEW GUINEA

2 BEAUFORTS on armed recce bombed KINIAMBU 9976 destroying 11 huts and causing a large explosion. Villages EAST of LAKE CHAMBRI were also bombed and strafed. 18 BEAUFORTS supporting a patrol investigating MABANINGI 818927 destroyed two huts. 16 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed enemy defensive position 6264 destroying five huts and uncovering fox holes.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4196 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

4197 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4198 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4199 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
14 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WD 15

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 303
(Compiled from infm to 150900K)

GENERAL

4200 JAPANESE SUICIDE ATTACKS ON SHIPPING

Since the beginning of the war, suicide tactics by Japanese airmen have been reported from time to time. No real confirmation of these tactics had been obtained up to the time of our landing on LEYTE. Since then they have been frequent, determined and effective.

ORGANISATION AND TRAINING

(a) The Japanese refer to their suicide attack "units", both Army and Navy, as their KAMIKAZA (Divine Wind) Corps. All evidence indicates that there has been no actual suicide attack organisation and probably no special preparatory training.

(b) A PW Navy pilot, rescued from the water after a near-miss crash dive on an escort carrier, provided useful information on the selection of pilots for these attacks. In the first units a group of four, five or possibly more pilots in a single squadron would volunteer for suicide attack duty. This small group would then assume a symbolic name in keeping with its new stature. This practice accounts, in part at least, for the named units mentioned in homeland broadcasts. The PW said, however, that his entire JUDY dive bomber group became a suicide squadron in late October; that the designation as a suicide squadron was requested by the squadron commander and approved by the higher commands.

(c) Since the inception of the suicide attacks, reports on their activities have played a large part in domestic radio broadcasts to the Empire. Posthumous citations have been prompt and numerous. The suicide divers usually have been raised two ranks in the military hierarchy. Their exploits have been used to build up morale on the home front.

EQUIPMENT

(a) PLANES. In the initial attacks on 25 Oct, 44 the planes used were mostly JNAF ZEKE 52s. Since that time a variety of Army and Navy planes have been employed including VAL, JILL, JUDY, BETTY and FRANCES of the JNAF and OSCAR, TOJO, and NICK and possibly other types of the JAAF. Isolated cases of the use of obsolete type have been reported.

(b) BOMBS. In the early attacks a variety of ordnance was apparently used, but in subsequent attacks the normal weapons are believed to have been 250 kg (550 lb) armour-piercing or semi-armour-piercing bombs, which in some instances at least were armed. In at least one case some type of fire bomb was possibly employed.

MAJOR INCIDENTS

(a) The initial major suicide attack took place 25 Oct, 44 on our escort carrier forces operating in protection of the LEYTE amphibious operations. In this attack, one escort carrier was sunk and others damaged seriously.

(b) Suicide attacks continued on available targets through mid-January 1945, when the LINGAYEN GULF amphibious operation was carried out and the core of Japanese air resistance in the PHILIPPINES was shattered.

(c) The attacks on our fast carrier task forces as they appeared of LUZON, on our ORMOC BAY reinforcement convoy, and on

the MINDORO BAY and LINGAYAN GULF convoys were particularly severe and damage was extensive.

TACTICS. Based on a study of the attacks, the following comments can be made:-

(a) The suicide attack is an established and effective Japanese tactic in which all type of Japanese planes are likely to be employed.

(b) Full advantage is taken of cloud cover and knowledge of Allied radar to avoid interception during the approach. On some occasions it has been reported that Japanese planes have used our own IFF.

(c) The attack is usually made in one of several ways:-

(i) In a dive from altitudes varying from 4000 to 8000 feet with the plane coming in from astern and attempting to hit the flight deck of a carrier, particularly one with planes on the flight deck. In such attacks, particularly the early ones, single planes attacked single ships, or two planes, in train, attacked a single ship.

(ii) An approach "on the deck", with the attacking planes either flying into the ship, aiming for the island on a carrier or the bridge of a warship, or pulling up to about 2000 feet, doing a wing over, and attempting to crash the ship in the island or bridge area.

(d) Usually the suicide attack group consists of a small number of planes. However, in cases where the immediate tactical situation is particularly pressing, (as at ORMOC) the Japanese have been willing to use large numbers of planes in suicide attacks, in an all-out effort to prevent an immediate tactical gain on our part.

(Extract from ACSEA Tactical Bulletin No.19)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4201 SOUTHERN SECTOR

KATSUMA. 24 Aust Inf Bn. An attack on D Coy position was repulsed and one enemy wounded.

4202 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATE-APAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Our forward platoon position was harassed throughout the day by enemy small arms fire.

4203 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Further hostile shelling took place and 40 rounds fell in the A Coy area.

NEW BRITAIN

4204 WIDE BAY

16 Aust Inf Bn. D Coy is now located at 620518 and A Coy has returned to area 633507.

4205 OPEN BAY

AIB patrol reports that a Jap camp has been located in square 3167.

NEW GUINEA

4206 WEWAK

INLAND SECTOR. 2 NGIB. A further three PW have surrendered and it is reported that natives have killed four enemy in the BEAGEL area 8899. Natives also report that the enemy is moving towards SUANAMDU 816932, MALABEIM 843972 and KUMICHA 8293.

Total casualties enemy four killed three PW, own three wounded.

AIB report that the AVATIP natives killed four enemy including Maj AONU at YENJANGAI.

OWN AIROPS

4207 NEW GUINEA

16 BEAUFORTS bombed and strafed NAKAI HQ at 829996 and KULILU destroying 14 huts. 36 BEAUFORTS supported a ground attack, bombed and strafed the suspected HQ 238 Regt at 816934. Huts were destroyed and one unusually large explosion caused. Reports by ground troops of the air strike by 12 BEAUFORTS on enemy position and ammunition dump at 838916 12 Aug state that the strike was highly successful. The accurate bombing killed many Japanese in their weapon pits and enabled our troops to capture the position without opposition.

AIR FORCE BOMBLINES

4208 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261

4209 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4210 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4211 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No. 280(as amended)

C. J. Holland
Lt Col
GS

G(Air)
15 Aug 45

DISTRIBUTION: As for ALO Bulletin No. 275.

WD 16

SECRET

FIRST AUST ARMY ALO BULLETIN No. 304
(Compiled from infm to 160900K)

SITUATION

BOUGAINVILLE

4212 SOUTHERN SECTOR

MUSAKAKA. 47 Aust Inf Bn. A security patrol engaged a small party of Japs in the vicinity of B Coy lines. Casualties enemy one wounded own one wounded.

KINGORI. PIB. C Coy is now established at 081339. A patrol engaged a large enemy party estimated approx 50/60 strong NORTH of the COMMANDO ROAD in HANUNG gardens 082438. Casualties enemy 12 killed, one wounded, own one native missing one wounded.

ANGAU. A report from scouts states approx 100 Japs heavily armed are astride the track from MAROLINA to KINGORI and that a further enemy party including casualties are moving in the direction of HANUNG.

HARI RIVER. 61 Aust Inf Bn. A small party of Japs infiltrated behind our lines and endeavoured to blow up the PEPERU bridge SOUTH of UNANAI at 995380. No damage was caused.

4213 CENTRAL SECTOR

PIATERAPAIA. 7 Aust Inf Bn. Our artillery harassed enemy positions at 704199 during the night 14/15 Aug. Enemy counter fire endeavoured to engage 12 Pl position, casualties own one wounded. During the afternoon 15 Aug enemy positions were again harassed.

4214 NORTHERN SECTOR

RATSUA - RURI. 8 Aust Inf Bn. Enemy artillery was again active with two 70 mm guns operating CHINDAWON PORTON ROAD which fired 34 rounds into area 287706. No damage or casualties were caused. Another 75 mm gun thought to be on the western tip of MADHAS ISLAND or CAPE LALAHAN endeavoured to register a barge unloading on the WEST coast of TAIOF ISLAND at 131712. Six rounds were fired from a gun situated on SOHANA ISLAND but the fall of shots was unobserved. B Tp 141 Hvy AA Bty effectively engaged and silenced this gun.

4 Fd Regt. 11 Bty engaged enemy positions WEST of CHINDAWON at 294752 and 284715.

NEW BRITAIN

4215 OPEN BAY

37/52 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol from D Coy observed recent Japanese foot prints SE AILIVENGI at 298575.

NGIB. C Coy are now established at 293543.

NEW GUINEA

4216 WEWAK

INLAND SECTOR. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn. A patrol engaged a Japanese ambush position at 956969 killing five Japs.

NGIB. A Coy engaged a Japanese party estimated 20/30 strong moving EAST at 924973. Casualties three Japs killed one wounded.

Total casualties not previously reported enemy nine killed, one PW.

OWN AIROPS

4217 BOUGAINVILLE

Aircraft employed to drop propoganda leaflets on all enemy forward areas giving news of Japanese surrended. No leaflets were dropped on SOHANA ISLAND due to presence of enemy HAA.

4218 NEW BRITAIN

RNZAF CORSAIRS based on JACQUINOT BAY patrolled RABAUL throughout the day.

4219 NEW GUINEA

30 BEAUFORTS supported ground attack, bombed and strafed enemy position 963987 with very good coverage. Only two huts were left standing.

AIRFORCE BOMBLINES

4220 BOUGAINVILLE - see para 3608 ALO Bulletin No. 261.

4221 NEW IRELAND - see para 983 ALO Bulletin No. 94.

4222 NEW BRITAIN - see para 4033 ALO Bulletin No. 289.

4223 NEW GUINEA - see para 3905 ALO Bulletin No.280(as amended)

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