

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

Item number: 8/3/62

24 Infantry Battalion

January 1944

-R.F. 1:1800-

# SKETCH SHOWING "A" COY

## ATTACK SPENDLOVE SPUR

24 JANUARY '44

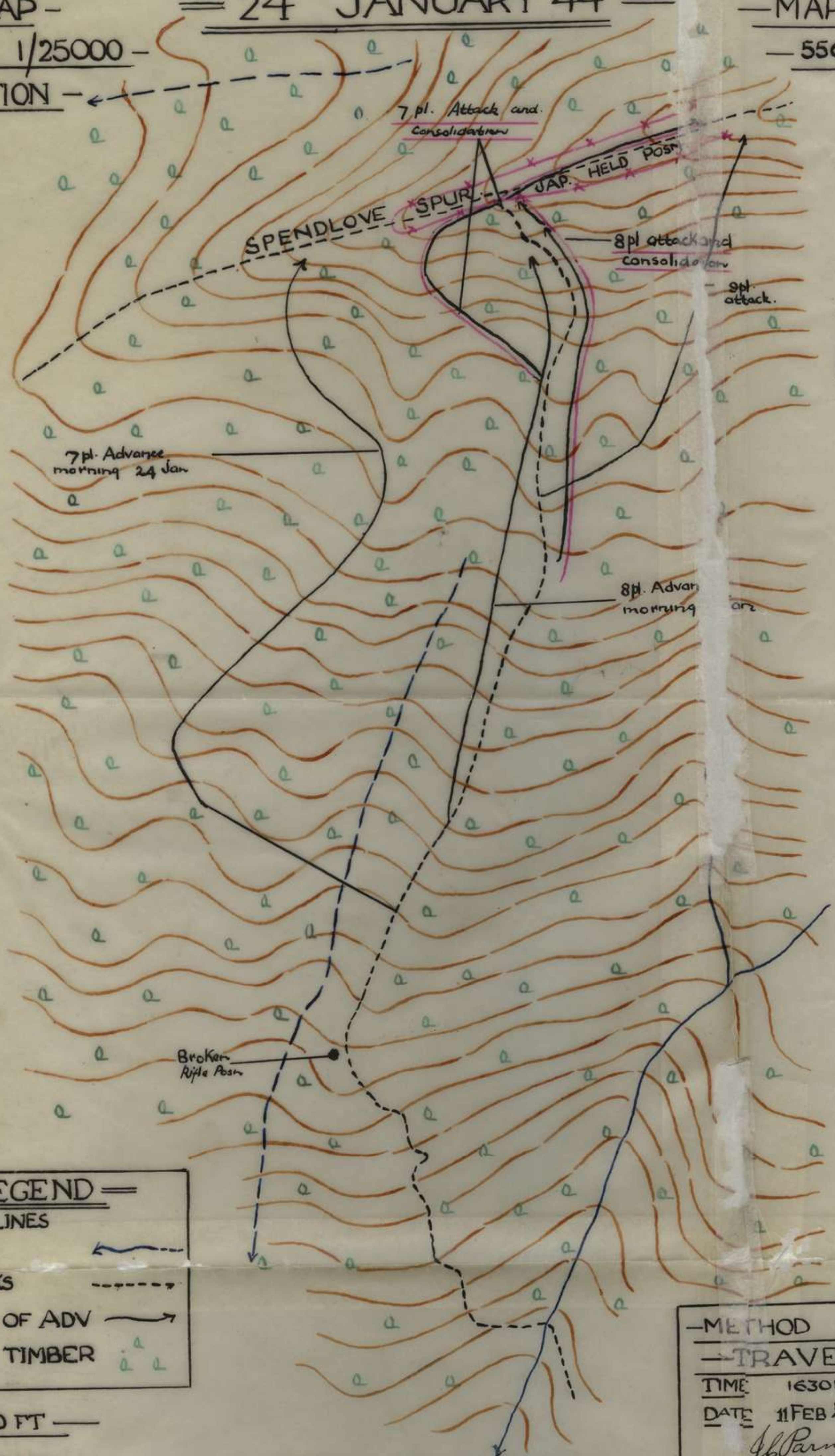
MAP REF

REF. MAP

AMUBA 1/25000

556699

2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION



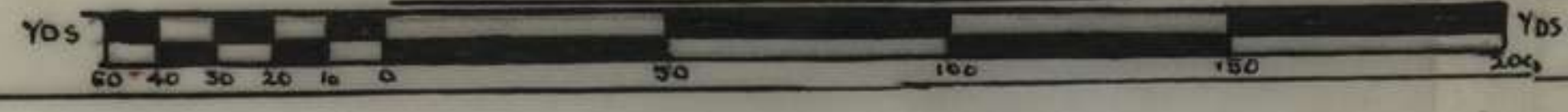
**LEGEND**

- FORM LINES
- CREEKS
- TRACKS
- LINES OF ADV
- THICK TIMBER

**METHOD USED**  
 TRAVERSE  
 TIME 1630 HRS  
 DATE 11 FEB '44  
*J. B. Parmentier*  
 I SEC.

V.I. 50 FT  
 GRADIENT  
 1 IN 1

SCALE 1 IN TO 50 YDS



APPX A.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 25

H Q 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

from info received up to 312359L.

1 Feb 44

ref maps - 1 : 25000 Series.

1. OPERATIONS.

Nothing to report.

2. PATROLS.D Coy.

Patrol No 5 D. Patrol Comd Lieut ALLEN and 6 ORs moved from CAMERONS 311850L to recon Jap posn 581691. From CAMERONS this patrol moved along spur to 573698 then SSE along the spur to approx map ref 579692 approx 50 yds from Jap O.P. 581692. It was observed that the O.P. had been improved but no sign of enemy was evident. Automatic fire, possibly from "woodpecker" SOUTH of Jap def posn at 581691 was heard and although the patrol reconed the area, no contact was made. The patrol returned to CAMERONS 311850L.

Patrol 6 from CAMERONS moved out 310850L. Patrol Comd Capt SKINNER with Lieut WHITEBROOK and 6 ORs with object to recon village 563712. Patrol moved up spur to 568707 to 567706 where arty sig cable to O.P. 572703 was found to be cut and taken up. Jap footprints were noticed at 567767 approx, being about 24 hrs old. Natives were heard in the distance to the NORTH. No movement was seen and patrol returned to CAMERONS arriving 311850L.

Patrol No 7 with Lieut LOCKER, Comd, Lieut FOX and 14 ORs plus arty personnel moved out at 310900L. Return expected 2 Feb.

- Tasks - 1. To recon Jap L of C.  
 2. To contact <sup>and ambush</sup> any enemy movement.  
 3. To destroy all enemy lines of comn discovered.

The last report received from this patrol was at 311130L from 573700 and to that area no movement has been observed. It is the intention of this patrol to move NNW to 573703 then EAST to spur 581703 then NNE to track 587713.

3. MOVEMENTSB Coy.

Coy H Q and 10 pl carried between KASAWAI and CASLAYS.

4. GENERAL.

Arty harassing fire on Jap posns 566709 night 31/1 is intended but NO report has as yet been received of its occurrence.

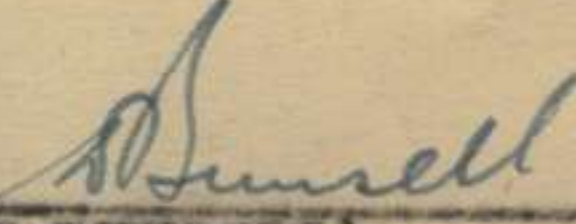
*AGF SMITH* Lt Col.  
 (AGF SMITH)

Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

Location Statement No 1 as at 072000L

LEGEND		KEY
Ref Map 1	in 1 mile	DUMPU
" " " " " "	" " " "	MT OTTO
	1-25000	AMUBA
		D
		O
		A

NO	Coy	Location	Map Ref
1	24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) Bn HQ	MENE R Area	D599588
2	<u>HQ Coy</u>		
	Coy HQ	MENE R Area	D597590
	1 Pl	" " "	D603590
	2 Pl less 2 secs	" " "	D597590
	3 Pl " 1 det	" " "	D597590
	4 Pl	" " "	D597590
	5 Pl plus 1 sec 2 Pl	" " "	D585583
	6 Pl	" " "	D597588
3	<u>A Coy</u>		
	Coy HQ	EVAPIA R Area	0549621
	7 Pl	" " "	0547623
	8 Pl	" " "	0549621
	9 Pl	" " "	0550622
4	<u>B Coy</u>		
	Coy HQ (fwd)	5500 Feature	D 640625
	" " (rear)	MENE R Area	D 597587
	10 Pl	5500 Feature	D640625
	11 Pl	fwd DID	D 553612
	12 Pl	MENE R Area	D 597587
5	<u>C Coy</u>		
	Coy HQ (fwd)	5800 Feature	A 562674
	" " (rear)	MENE R Area	D587580
	13 Pl )		Patrolling to
	14 Pl )	5800 Feature	A573695
	15 Pl )		A 549689
6	<u>D Coy</u>		
	Coy HQ plus 1 Sec 2 Pl	EVAPIA R Area	O 558624
	" 1 det 3 Pl	" " "	O 559624
	16 Pl	" " "	O 556623
	17 Pl	" " "	O 568624
	18 Pl	" " "	

  
 (W. BUNSELL) Lieut  
 IO 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO.1.

Information to 072359L

Ref. Maps I in Im1 DUMFU  
MT OTTO  
MT KUBARI  
URIGINA  
I:25000 AMURA1. SUMMARY FROM 1 Jan.

At 311500L the Bn received a warning order to move from the NADZAB to the DUMFU area. The order to move was received at 311530L and the Bn commenced unloading at 010020L. In that period stores were packed areas cleared and Coys moved from YALU, BRAP River and Camp DIBBY to a bivouac posn in the vicinity of the NADZAB strip.

All Coys moved from their areas within two hours of receipt of order to move. On arrival at DUMFU the Unit relieved 2/25 Aust Inf Bn in the MENS River area and when this area was taken over came under the comd 25 Aust Inf Bde until 2 Jan when 21 Aust Inf Bde took over the area. At 011600 L disposition were as follows:-

H.Q. 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)	599588
H.Q. Coy	597590
A Coy	552618
B "	597587
C "	597574
D "	588585

On 4 Jan D Coy was moved to 558621 relieving C Coy 2/14 Aust Inf Bn At 071200L the unit returned to comd of 15 Aust Inf Bde.

2. OPERATIONS .

When B Coy patrol No 2 reached area in sq. 6565 at 061430L it was learnt from 2/2 Pnr Bn that one Jap had been sighted in the area 30 mins previously at 061530L. Capt Duell despatched a patrol of 7 men who searched area 6566 but failed to locate any enemy.

3. PATROLS

The unit commenced patrolling on 2 Jan. Details attached in appendix A

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Some Japanese documents were recovered by C Coy patrol No 3 on 5800 f feature on 5 Jan. These were forwarded to 21 Aust Inf Bde on 7 Jan.

5. DISPOSITIONS.

Location as at 072000L are attached as Appendix B

6. SECURITY.

L/Cpl Thomas of F.S.S who was attached to 2/25 Aust Inf Bn was attached to this unit on relief and accompanied Patrol No 3 to the 5800 feature.

S/Bgt Perversi of F.S.S visited the area 5/7 Jan and lectured all Coys excepting B. such interest was aroused by his up to date infm on Japanese intelligence.

7. GENERAL.

Brig Docherty comd 21 Aust Inf Bde visited the area on 2 Jan and on 5 Jan accompanied Brig Hamner DSO comd 15 Aust Inf Bde on a visit to the unit. On 6 Jan both comds accompanied Lt Col Smith to the forward coy on the EVAPIA River and on 7 Jan Brig Hamner again visited the unit area.

*B.L. Gray*  
..... Lt Col  
for (G.F. Smith)  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

PATROL NO 14.

FOUND BY 13 Pl C Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

COMMAND Sgt BRACK

TO Reported Firm Base area

STRENGTH 10 c/s

WEAPONS 6MM and rifles

DURATION 3 days.

START TIME 090630L due to return 11 JAN.

ROUTE Firm Base 552674 to PIB huts 549689 then to No 3 village 530705 (First day) Then to No 2 village 535711 then via No 1 village 550704 to PIB huts 549689 (second day) returning to Firm Base

OBJECT 1. Investigate tracks reported to be along Jap Firm Base area.  
2. Blase track.  
3. Make going report.

EQUIPMENT mos. net, gas cape, U.S. guitars, 1st aid, compass, protractor, sterilizing, atabrine tabs and lotion.

COMMS. L/T to PIB huts then runner .

DURATION 3 days F.O.A.

METHOD BRIEFED. by phone.

*Dunsell*  
.....Lieut  
I.O 24 Bn (A.I.F)

24 AUST. INF BN(A.I.F)-----PATROL BRIEF.

*C. Coy*  
8 JAN '44

PATROL NO 13.

FOUND BY. Composite 14,15 PIs, C Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn(AIF)  
 COMD Capt CAMERON

TO AMUBA

STRENGTH 1 officer 200 S

WEAPONS Normal pl.

DURATION 5 days.

START TIME 090630L due to return 13 JAN.

ROUTE FIRM BASE 562874 to P.I.B village 549689 then by  
 easy track to village 574695 then via track junc  
 575715 to report at Jap posn 591719. Then to Jap  
 Lof C at AMUBA via village 587724. Return by short-  
 est route.

OBJECT

1. Fighting patrol to reach Jap L of C at AMUBA.
2. A certain Jap posn held up to that point.
3. Blaze track.
4. make going report.

EQUIPMENT Mos. net, gas cape, U.S gaiters, 1st aid, compass,  
 protractor, sterilizing, atabrine tabs and lotion.

COMMS L/T to be laid to PIB village 8 Jan. After leaving  
 PIB village W/T 208. Alternate-runner.

RATIONS 5 days F.O.R rations per man

CARRIERS 3/ ~~for~~ W/T, 2 for rations etc. TOTAL 5 natives

METHOD BRIEFED By phone

*[Signature]*  
 .....Lieut  
 I.O 24 Bn(A.I.F)



INFORMATION to 082359L

24 AUST INF BN (AIF)  
9 JAN 1944

REF. MAPS I" to I ml.  
DUMPU  
MUTOLO  
MUKUBARI  
AMUBA

I:25000

- 1. OPERATIONS Nothing to report
- 2. PATROLS Details attached in APPENDIX "D".
- 3. BRIEFING OF PATROLS. Details attached see APPENDICES A, B and C.
- 4. GENERAL

THE GOC NEW GUINEA FORCES - Lt General Sir Leslie MORSEHEAD accompanied by  
 Major General VASEY G.O.C 7 AUST DIV  
 Brig. DOHERTY COMD 21 AUST INF BDE  
 " HAMMER " 15 " " "  
 Lt Col ROBINSON G.I 7 AUST DIV  
 " SMITH COMD 24 AUST INF BN  
 " MARSTON " 57/60 AUST INF BN  
 " STARR " 58/59 AUST INF BN  
 Major TRAVERS B.M 15 AUST INF BDE  
 Capt THOMAS A.D.C  
 " ROSE I.O 21 AUST INF BDE  
 Lt BUNSELL I.O 24 AUST INF BN

inspected the F.D.L's of the EVAPIA RIVER area. The G.O.C and his party arrived in the area at 081400L departing at 081630L

*Smith*  
 ..... Lt Col  
 G.F SMITH  
 ( comd 24 Aust Inf Bn A.I.F)

War Diary

SECRET.

Hqs 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

24 AUST INF BN (AIF) INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 3.

10 Jan 44.

From infm received up to 092359L.

Ref Maps DUMFU 1 in to 1 ml.  
MT OTTO " "  
AMUBA 1 - 25000

1. OPERATIONS.

A Coy. 081930L. One O.A. reported in from OROGUNA. This man, OX 32379 pte BELL. N. who is a member of 2/14 Aust Inf Bn was reported killed following a patrol clash at OROGUNA on 6 Jan. He was fwd scout and was fired on after he had penetrated the Jap wire but managed to escape into the scrub. He was suffering from badly bruised feet when he reached our posns and was admitted to 2/5 Fd Amb on 9 Jan.

B Coy. 090630L. 11 Pl patrol No 15 to KOROPA strength 1 Oftr 16 Oms moved from fwd DID. W/T comn was est at 1500L. but location was NOT stated.

091245L. Patrol No 2 which left 4 Jan to contact 2/2 Pnr Bn, returned and reported patrol from that Bn contacted 061430L at 645658. No contact made with enemy.

C Coy. 080912L. Patrol No 13 to AMUBU cleared village at ref map AMUBA 575696. No contact made with enemy. No coms since.

090700L. Patrol No 14 strength 1 sec through P.I.B. camp 549690 to old Jap camps left. L/T is being established for this patrol from the Coy posn at 563574 to P.I.B. camp.

14 Pl at 549689 reported one shot heard from approx sq. 5572. No time was stated.

D Coy. 091945L. Coy C.P. reported a small fire seen on mudbank in AMU River at approx 554598. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn was advised and a patrol despatched which returned at 2315 without reaching the river. NO movement was seen by the patrol.

2. PATROLS.

B Coy. Patrol 12 of one sec strength left 5800 feature in attempt to reach 5800 feature and contact tps of 2/6 Cav (Comm) Sqn on that feature. NO further report received.

3. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.

C Coy. 091125L. When 14 Pl occupied def. posn at 549687. AMUBA 1-25000 one Owen gun, one Japanese container holding eyeshields and some Japanese documents were recovered. These will be forwarded when received. The Owen gun is believed to be one captured from a 2/14 patrol.

4. GENERAL.

(a) 091245L. 5 Oftrs 77 Oms from rear details arrived at Bn HQ and were drafted to Coys. The Oftrs were posted as follows -

Lieut ANDERSON.	8 Pl A Coy.
Lieut BOWNALL	12 Pl B Coy.
Lieut MCINTOSH	15 Pl C Coy.
Lieut FINLAYSON	9 Pl A Coy. temporarily then to T.O.
Lieut BROADHEAD	13 Pl C Coy.

(b) C.O. (Lt-Col SMITH) Adjnt, I.O. Sllg C and all Coy Comds except C, attended Bae TWWT on 15 Aust Inf Bde role in this area.

*G.F. Smith* Lt Col.

(G.F. SMITH)

Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

ADDENDUM to Original orders - Patrol 15.

10 Jan 44

1. INFORMATION. (a) Tac R indicates OROGUNA has been vacated and Rds via BIRI and KISA and MATELOI show heavy recent use, en route BOGADJIM.  
(b) Bridge over BOKU at 452781 is visible from OROGUNA.
2. INTENTION. Patrol 15 will -  
(a) determine if OROGUNA unoccupied.  
(b) Protect L of C KOROPA to rear.
3. METHOD. (a) Patrol 15 less 1 sec will remain SOLU area patrolling locally and to bridge 500753, protect themselves and rear L of C.  
(b) Sec of patrol 15 to leave forthwith to search OROGUNA and return KOROPA by night 12/13 Jun 44 with all info to hand over to Coy patrol from 57/60 Aust Inf Bn arriving there.  
(c) Withdrawal of patrol 15 will be ordered by FOPO.  
(d) Patrol 15 H.Q. will contact FOPO hourly by line and W/T as convenient.
4. ADMINISTRATION. (a) Recce sec will be fully equipped with patrol rations from balance of patrol 15 who will draw from dump 45 mins fwd track as advised by I.O.  
(b) Further 48 hrs rations will be sent up to patrol 15 probably 11 Jan 44. Advice later.
5. INTERCOMN. (a) Patrol 15 will maintain L/T SOLU rearward.  
(b) 108 set will be taken by recce sec to OROGUNA.
6. METHOD OF ISSUE. (a) Telephone to Capt KENNEDY.  
(b) By hand D.R. A Coy to patrol 15.
7. ACK.

  
Capt. Adjt.

FOPO.

From information received up to 102359L.

ref Maps:-

URIGINIA	1 in 1 ml.
MT. OTTO	1 in 1 ml.
DUMPU	1 in 1 ml.
<del>MYXIX</del>	1 : 25,000.
AMUBA	

### 1. OPERATIONS.

#### C COY.

101145L. Patrol No. 13 comd. Capt. CAMERON whilst moving in the direction of AMUBA contacted a Jap force estimated strength 1 Pl. dug in astride track on top of a very steep wooded feature with an average grade of 1 in 2. The patrol comd. advised that the enemy front was approx 200 yds wide but that no wire was seen fwd of the defences. The patrol engaged the enemy but were unable to advance and moved then to village 573695. During the action over 100 9 mm and 50 .303 amm. were expended.

### 2. PATROLS:

#### B COY.

Patrol No. 12. 5800 to 5500 feature. No report received.  
Patrol No. 15. Following tac/a report that no mvt. was seen at enemy posns. ORGORUNA 453807, and that track KISA 470825-KOBA 492814 - MATALOI - BIRI 491843 showed signs of much recent use, advice was received that ORGORUNA 1 and 2, KISA, and MATALOI 1 and 2 had been nominated as suitable air strike targets - Later advice was received from Bde. that one Coy. 57/60 Aust. Inf. Bn. would patrol to ORGORUNA and patrol 15 was instructed to establish a firm base at KOROPA 464733. One sec. is to patrol fwd. to ORGORUNA and obtain infm. for the 57/60 Bn. patrol. See appendix A for Addendum to patrol instructions.

#### C COY.

101700L Patrol No. 14 was unable to find the village reported at 550703 and returned to 549689.

110700L patrol No. 23 has been briefed to patrol fwd. through 550703, to 549725. See appendix B.

NOTE: In sitrep 21 this patrol was incorrectly reported out at 101730L.

#### D COY.

Copy of Sgt. WINTLE'S patrol up the MVAPIA River is attached as appendix C.

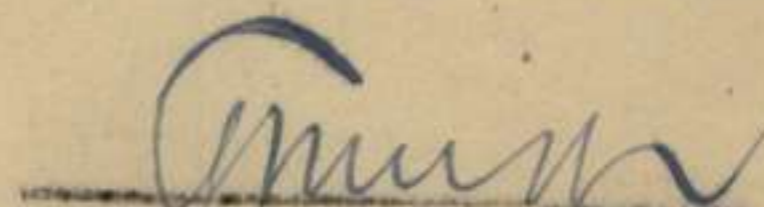
### 3. AIR PHOTOS.

The following air photos for this area are held by this unit

- (a) One copy each of -  
280x Junc FARIA - RAMU rivers to KEBANIA 2, 7v - 14v both inclusive.
- (b) Two copies each of -  
Area between MENE and SOLU rivers.  
A.S.P's. 73v, 76v, 79v 81v.
- (c) One copy each of A.S.P's. -  
V2 - V6, V17 - V23, V28, V35, V38, V52.

#### GENERAL.

101500L 7 Bty. 2/4 Fd. Arty. Regt. registered targets in vic. 573695.

 Lt. Col.

G.F. SMITH.  
Comd. 24 Aust. Inf. Bn. (A.I.F.)

-SKETCH SHOWING JAP-

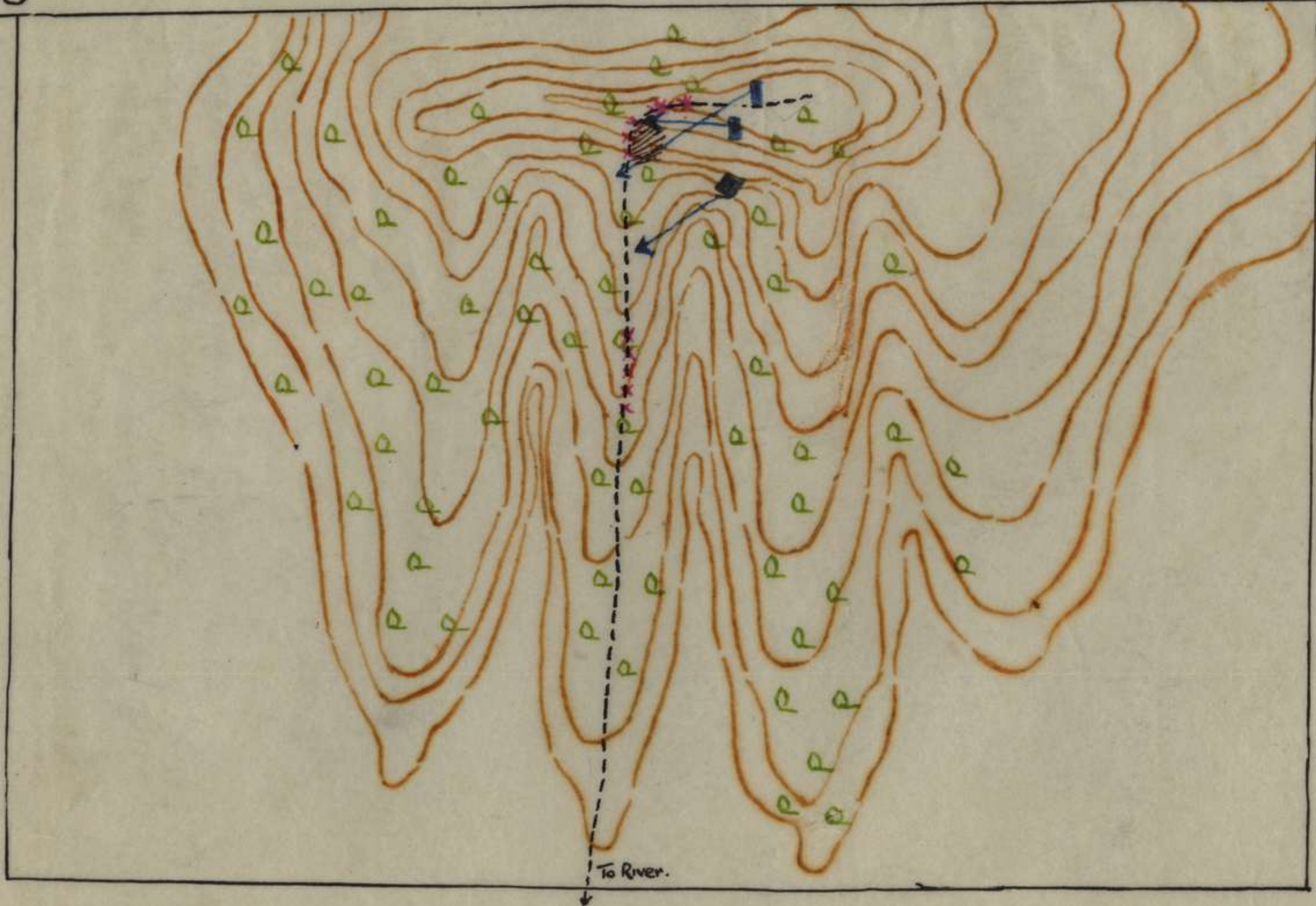
-CONTACT AREA AT 1145 HRS- -REF POINT-

-10 JAN-

-589719-

-REF MAP-

-AMUBA 1:25000



-LEGEND:-

- SCOUTS \*\*
- MEN X
- JAP L.M.G. [blue arrow]
- JAP M.M.G. [blue arrow]
- FIRST SEC & PATROL HQ XXX
- SECOND SEC & CARRIERS XXXXX
- BLUFF [hatched]

MEMORY SKETCH

- NOT TO SCALE -

Time 1530hrs  
 Date 14 Jan 43  
 Barnett  
 POC  
 I. Sec 24 A.I.B. (A.I.F)

CONTACT REPORT\*

12 Jan 44

Ref Map AMUBA 1 : 25000.

To I.O.

Time of contact 101145L.  
Map ref 589719  
Enemy strength One pl plus attached troops. (This I estimate by the firing of heavy MMG)  
Position Def posn and by reports of forward scouts and observation, well dug in.  
Extent of flanks. The posn is approx 200 yds wide and in the form of a quarter circle. It is covering track running EAST-WEST along crest and track running NORTH-SOUTH up spurs.  
Own Casualties. Nil.  
Enemy casualties. Unknown.

Remarks.

The scouts (2) had just turned corner of track and were approx 40 yds into clearing on crest. Fwd scout was approx 30 yds from the first enemy posn - Second scout saw Jap standing by a bush and called out to first scout who dived back to cover just in front of second scout. The Jap heard the scout call and dived for his LMG nest. The first scout then fired a burst of 9 MM into nest and Jap gun opened on him while he was ducking back to cover behind the bluff or cutting where patrol H.Q. and the rest of fwd sec had gone to ground. The second scout then fired a burst of 9 mm at LMG nest and during a slight stoppage of this gun got back to bluff with rest of fwd party. A second LMG then opened up from left or SOUTH side of track and there was intermittent rifle fire from this area also. This fire was fairly intense and in bursts with the rifle fire continuing during the interval between bursts and was mostly going over our heads and into the reentrant behind our posn. On the second LMG opening up a heavy type of gun, very like our own MMG opened from a posn SOUTH of the LMG nests.

This gun opened on the track in rear of the fwd group (fwd sec and patrol HQ) and in front of rear sec and carriers who were approx 200 yds in rear of the fwd group and just coming out of the trees in the clearing portion of the track. This gun appears to have been on fixed lines across the track for it fired in the one posn for a considerable time but when Sgt JOHNSTONE attempted to recover a bag containing 12 FORs dropped by one of the natives carriers, this gun opened on the package causing the Sgt to pull back with nothing worse than a hand and arm splashed with mud. This sec had gone to ground and fired a few bursts of 9 mm and rifle shots at the general area of MMG. This gun was placed in a thick clump of trees and underground at top of reentrant on EAST of track and ending in a stiff rise up to the crest. The height of gun above this rear section would be approx 30 ft and 300 yds distant at an angle of 45 degrees.

After approx 3 minutes I started to thin out the fwd sec who withdrew down the reentrant on WEST side of track - F/O BROWN a RAAF Officer and myself then withdrew along this reentrant picking up Capt FREDERICK a USA Officer with the patrol and rejoined the rear sec approx 200 yds back along track. After a general discussion at this point and from my further observations of the Jap posn and area I decided to withdraw down the spur along the track over the river at bottom of feature, to the high ground on SOUTH side of river. I consider this Jap posn well dug, well sited and with a commanding view of both track and surrounding area. The steep grade (approx 1 in 2)

to the posn and the difficult terrain both EAST and WEST of the track will make either direct attack or encirclement of this posn very difficult. Several members of rear sec have stated that two distinct thumps, very much like a grenade, appeared to come from reentrant EAST of track and suggest they came from the MMG area.

Signed. W. CAMERON.

Capt.

.0830. 13 Jan 44

The scene (E) had just turned corner of track and was a track to the left clearing on crest. Two sec were approx 50 yds from the first enemy posn - Sec 2nd about saw the enemy by a flash and called out to first sec to dive back to cover just in front of second sec. The first sec then fired a burst of 3 rd last heat and 3rd gun opened on him while he was ducking back to cover behind the dirt or ceiling where he was. The rest of the sec had gone to ground. The second sec then fired a burst of 3 rd last heat and during a slight stoppage of this gun he took a hit with loss of left hand. A second sec then opened up from left or SOUTH side of track and there was a tremendous fire. This was a heavy fire and was mostly going over the heads and into the reentrant behind our posn. The second sec opening up a heavy type of gun, very like our own MMG opened from a reentrant SOUTH of the track. This gun opened on the track in rear of the 2nd group (1st sec and patrol 1st) and in front of rear sec and sentiers who were approx 200 yds in rear of the 2nd group and just coming out of the trees in the clearing portion of the track. This gun appears to have been on a fixed line across the track for a fixed in the rear for a considerable time but when the 2nd group attempted to recover a bag containing 12 500m dropped by one of the heavy sentiers, this gun opened on the sentier causing the 2nd group to take cover with machine guns. This was then a hand and was attached with a red. This sec had gone to ground and fired a low burst of 3 rd and rifle shots at the general area of MMG. This gun was placed in a thick clump of trees and was firing at target reentrant on EAST of track and was firing in a slight rise up to the crest. The height of gun above this rear section would be approx 30 ft and 300 yds distant at an angle of 45 degrees. After approx 3 minutes I started to thin out the 2nd sec who withdrew down the reentrant on WEST side of track - 1st sec and 2nd sec and myself then withdrew along the reentrant, taking up Capt. FRANKLIN a 500 yds along with the patrol and rejoined the reentrant approx 200 yds back along track. After a general discussion at this point and time by the observations of the 2nd sec and area I decided to withdraw down the spur along the track over the river at bottom of reentrant, to the high ground on SOUTH side of river. I consider this the best well dug, well sited and with a commanding view of both track and surrounding area. The enemy (approx 1 in E)

M 33

PATROL REPORT.

12 Jan 44

Ref Map AMUBA 1 : 25000.

All bearings magnetic.

Patrol found by C Coy. 15 pl.Patrol Comd. Capt CAMERON.Strength 3 Offrs 17 ORs 5 natives.Armament 1 Bren, 9 mags. 10 OSMGs . 6 mags, 2 carbines. 2 grenades per man. 7 rifles, 100 rds per man including 1 cup discharger 4 seven sec. 8 b.p. grenades.Object To contact Enemy and reach rd vicinity AMUBA 605734.Time out 090810L. Time in 111420L.Route out From FIRMBASE 563672 via 14 pl fwd def area 549689, Native gardens and village 573696 then NORTH along left bank stream grid 5770 to SOLU River then N.E. to 4100 ft feature 589719.Route in Reverse of route out.Rations. 5 days F.O.R. and Emergency Ops.Result. Contacted enemy 101145L in def posn 589719. withdrew. Did NOT reach or observe road.Details.

090810L. Left Firm base 562673. Heavy going muddy track running NW to 14 pl fwd def posn 549689 - one very steep descent and ascent between these two places.

091000L. Reached 14 pl area. Slight short descent then climb to kunai Spur 552692. Track then goes down spur running N.E.

091030L. Heard sound of water on right.

091035L. Has drink at small ck running at 69deg and parallel to track. Track then climbs to kunai spur with 6 old lean tos. on kunai spur running S.W. and NNE in shape of boomerang, leantos being on NNE portion.

091050L We reached here. (6 lean tos)

Track then descends till 1100hrs and ascends to another kunai spur which we reached at 091105L. 4 lean tos on left, fox hole full of water in angle on track on spur. Track slopes gently in 30 deg direction and then swings to 89deg to another kunai

1135L. spur. Sharp descent, to cross creek muddy trickle spanned by two 8 ft lengths of 5 in diameter logs. Ck runs in N-S direction map ref of bridge 560698. Stiff 1 in 3 grade EAST till

1145L when track EAST along right side of spur fairly level good going through 7-8 feet kunai.

1155L Track continues down saddle EAST and up to native gardens and village . Foxhole 10 mins on left of track before village

1210L which we reached at 1210hrs. Village circled to N.W. - NE by gardens mostly bananas. map ref 573696.

1220L. Has lunch in village.

1240L. Comms established with BHQ by our 208 W/T. We dropped 10 tins of F.O.R here.

After lunch we set out along track which ran NE from village. Met branch track 5 mins out of village. Branch track ran EAST We kept to NE track down kunai spur on left side of spur.

(On previous patrol to village 5-8 Jan we reced this NE track for 40 mins. This was the farthest point reached by this patrol - Comd FLEWELLEN. )

Track continued - gentle fall.

1500L. We found Jap postcards, paper and piece of broken mirror on right of track. These articles were approx dropped a week ago and I am forwarding them separately.

1530L Struck branch track - one to NORTH and one to NE. we took NORTH track.

1600L Detained 2 natives carrying kai going in WESTERLY direction. They said, in answer to our questions, "Japs over other half of range" NO Japs this side". They saw 1 - 2 Japs walking to range 3-4 days ago. We estimated this would be about last Friday 7 Jan. Natives difficult to question even talking



our boongs. They were taking kai to Mary's and piccannies but we persuaded them to accompany us. They dumped portion of their kai and complied somewhat reluctantly. Place of contact 574700. One native had white bandage over one ankle. When questioned about it he said he obtained ~~statement that his~~ bandage from PIB. This was in accord with his statement that his village was WEST of us and in PIB area. We detained natives because we wanted them to guide us to track up range to Jap posn 589719 in case we could find NO clearly defined track on NORTH side of SOLU River.

1630L. We continued on downhill. we struck and crossed small trickle on right. Cr ran NNW map ref 574708. (Track shown on AMUBA map at this spot does not exist.)

We followed creek for approx 1/2 hr when track left creek ran NE over timbered spur. We sent a 10 min recce patrol ahead and as we expected they reported track went over spur and down to SOLU river at approx 576707.

Daylight was fading so we decided to camp for night 9/10 Jan on spur 575707. We camped n high ground approx 200 yds away from and overlooking ~~xxxxxx~~ track on right. Our posn could NOT be seen from track while we could observe the track.

During the night our 2 natives we had collected en route disappeared. Our leader Capt CAMERON, was sure these natives were NOT connected with Japs and only retained them for purposes of showing us the track. The bivouac area and environs was medium jungle and tall timbered moss forest. NO change of taking bearings to any features on posns.

### Day 2. 10 Jan.

100800L. We left heavy area. Track ran N.E. up over short spur to river. Overall width of river 40 yds, 2 ft deep, rocky bed. Sent recce party downstream to junc 574707 to <sup>look</sup> for track on right and also creek shown on map as tributary running NORTH from river at 575708 ~~xxxxxx~~ Recce established fact that tributary does NOT exist as a flowing stream. It may possibly be a dry or intermittent watercourse. Nor did they find a track running NORTH from right bank of river on our side of creek - river junc 574707. River is very winding in this area and it was impossible to establish an accurate direction of flow by compass as we were in a hurry to get to that road over the range.

We followed the river upstream in NORTH direction and struck well defined but NOT recently used track on left of river. This track led up a steep, muddy brown clay dry creek bed. grade 1 in 2 in NE direction. This water course is possibly the ntermittent stream shown on AMUBA 1-25000 sheet at 578707. Left river at 0830L and started to climb.

0930L. After climbing 1 in 2 grade pulling ourselves up by clutching roots etc we reached at 0930L a bare clay platform with a fairly old grave approx 4'6" x 2ft mounded with clay approx 1 ft high. At NORTH end of grave was smooth round post dressed softwood height 4 ft viz

Diameter of post 4 ins sawn out portion neatly executed as though name to be inserted. NO name engraved and worms had eaten into sawn out portion, 4 yds to left was lean to structure facing down hill. NO roof or sides.

This mountain was series of narrow re-entrants. Th track led up the left side of a reentrant in general direction.

1030hrs. We came upon a squat approx 1 week old where a person had sat on some cut leaves. Also broken Aust rifle (.303) at this spot

At NO stage of the climb could I see through the timber any neighboring features so I could pin point the posn of this part of the range. The track all the way was blazed with very old cuts on the trees - probably made by natives. The track was extremely difficult to negotiate, broken away in parts and ranging from 1 in 1 to 1 in 2 in grade.

1140 Passed natural clearing in timber on right of track approx 90yds by 100yds

1145 We looked up at an angle of 45deg and saw through the timber a clearing the sky. We though we must be near the summit, The fwd scouts had disappeared round a high overhanging bluff which the track climbed round at the base from where patrol HQs was.

1145L. Suddenly a volley of shots rang out. We later learned this volley was fired by our second fwd scout Pte GERAGHTY. Whereupon we all went

3.

to ground. The main body of the leading section and patrol HQs group behind bluff and rear section just on edge of clearing mentioned above.

For details of contact see appended contact report and sketch. Pos n of contact approx.

- 1150 Leading elements of fwd section started to move back going down reentrant on WEST side of track to reform at approx 400 paces down track.
1205. Main body of patrol met on track. We then learned that one native had dropped one bag containing 12 bags of FOR over the side of spur. Capt CAMERON, F/O BROWN and Capt FREDERICK moved out and about 150 paces rejoined track where Sgt JOHNSTONE and rear sec had gone to ground and were holding the track. They held council of war and decided to
- 1400 move down to river which we reached at approx 1400 hrs to move to high ground SOUTH side of river as we could communicate with Unit (BHQ) as quickly as possible.  
Had a "snack" at the river and moved back along track - reverse of route out - to native village. the only open spot offering good comn and defence.
1420. On way back at approx map ref 574708 we crossed small trickle (Mentioned on route out) and on a rock over which water flowed found small piece of paper LEONY - which is fwded separately. This paper had Jap writing on back and was NOT on rock on route out. It had evidently been washed downstream in between times.
- 1445 We heard several burst of arty fire.
- 1510 We reached a kunai spur and observed three arty smoke bombs fall on 320 deg bearing. As we moved on towards the high ground 573696 the shells were falling closer to us - one landing 150 yds in our rear. We decided the arty were crangin on the native village.
- 1610 Comns established with BHQ. We received instructions to remain for night where we were. 573695.

DAY 3 11 Jan.

- 0930L. Left village for firm base.  
1145L Had lunch at 549689.  
1420L. Reached F B. 563673.

REMARKS. The track from F.B. 563673 to approx 573696 is marked with foxholes at intervals. Most of the high ground - clear patches - as far as 560698 has been used as def posns. The area of Old PIB HQs 549689 being a particularly good def posn. well sited and dug in. The track we followed into the valley grid sq 5770 showed NO signs of being fortified. NO foxholes. The track up the mountain to the Jap posn was not foxholed.

On most of tracks in these parts can we found at intervals Jap rubber boots, helmets, coats, ground sheets or tent sheets. We removed all markings and have forwarded them under separate cover.

COMNS. While on high ground in clear patches W/T comns are very good but in timber on in the valleys W/T comns are impracticable.

WATER Good water available at intervals along track. On high features it is usually 10-15 minutes down hill but the natives, under escort usually found it.

RATIONS. The new F.O.R. are a welcome change and much appreciated.

GENERAL. We were extremely disappointed at NOT being able to see or reach the ROAD

Signed. C SANSFIELD Pte.  
0820hrs. 13 Jan 44.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT 5

12 Jan  
Ref Maps I' totaille DUMFO  
MT OTIO  
ORIGINA  
I:25000 AMUBA

From information up to ILE359L

1. OPERATIONS

Telephone report of patrol 13 comd on action of 10 Jan at 589719 is as follows -

Patrol was moving in an easterly direction up steep wooded spur of grade approx 1 in 2 with two scouts forward. The first scout was approx 20 paces from a Jap standing beside a tree on the left of track when the second scout warned him both scouts fired at the Jap but could not tell if they hit him as he immediately went to ground in the dug in defensive position which the scouts thought was more extensive than foxholes. Almost immediately an LMG on the right of the track opened up. The second scout engaged this position to allow the first scout to withdraw. As he was withdrawing a second LMG opened from the right flank and pinned the leading section and patrol HQ to the ground. At the same time two native carriers with the rear covering section emerged from some timber lower down the track where the track ran almost NORTH before swinging east up the spur and were engaged by an LMG (NOT A WOODPECKER) which fired from a posn behind where the forward elements were pinned down. The natives dropped their loads and returned to a previously decided A.V 400 yds behind point of contact. Sgt JOHNSON who was in charge of the rear party attempted to recover the loads, which were rations, but was fired on and withdrew into the timber. Meanwhile the forward elements engaged the enemy positions with rifle and automatic weapons. The enemy replied with rifles and automatic machine fire but fired high. Capt CAMERON ordered the forward section to move left down the steep re-entrant and return to the A.V position. Whilst evacuating the position some members stated that grenades were thrown at them. At the A.V this party met the rear section and the natives and after investigating the position decided that the only way to approach the position was up the track as the re-entrants were too steep and difficult to negotiate. Capt CAMERON patrol comd then decided to withdraw. During the operation which lasted some five minutes targets were very difficult to see and the patrol engaged positions from where the firing came. They were unable to ascertain results. Capt CAMERON reports that the enemy L.M.G generally fired WEST along the track near the top of the spur and the MG fired SOUTH at the track lower down.

Lt/Lieut BROWN SAAP and Capt FREDERICKS U.S Air Liason Officer were with the forward section which was pinned down, and they expressed the opinion that the target could be strafed but not bombed accurately.

2. PATROLS

- A Coy. routine patrols only forward of F.D.L's. No movement seen.  
B Coy. (a) 1629L. Patrol NO 12 which left the 5800 feature on 9 Jan to contact 2/6 Cav. (Command) Sqn on 5800 feature arrived at A Coy HQ 54962L, being unable to negotiate the 5800 feature from the WEST.  
(b) Patrol 24(1211 has been ordered to KOROPA to relieve patrol 15 now based there. copy of brief is attached (Appendix A)  
C Coy. (a) 1415L patrol 13 comd Capt CAMERON returned to I4 pl defensive position 549689.  
(b) 1509L patrol 23 to sq 5871 reached 580704. Further instructions have been issued to patrol to continue on to Jap track via AMUBA, observe and report.

3. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Articles and papers recovered at 5800 feature and at KOROPA were taken to 15 AUST. INF. BN 11 Jan by L/Cpl THOMAS F.S.S.

4. TOPOGRAPHICAL

Attached as Appendix B is copy of track information supplied by a line party which laid cable up to the 5800 feature night 6/7 Jan.

5. GENERAL

Recce of new B.M.Q area vic. YOGIA RIVER continued and working parties commenced construction.

*Smith*  
.....Lt.Col.  
G.F. SMITH.  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn(AIF)

13 Jan 44

Ref maps DUMPU 1 in to 1 ml.  
 MT OTTO " "  
 URUBINA " "  
 AMUBA 1 : 25000

1. OPERATIONS.

A Coy. 121020L. Recce party from 8 Pl Comd Lieut ANDERSON based at KOROPA contacted enemy dug in posns at OROGUNA 2. Interim report stated that enemy used one MMG two LMG and rifles. Cas. Enemy unknown. own tps Nil. The party contacted patrol from A Coy 57/60 Aust Inf Bn on way back and arrived at KOROPA at 1820L. The Pl will return to the EVAPIA River area on 13 Jan.

2. PATROLS. \*

A Coy. 1500L. Patrol 25 strength 3 ORs from 8 Pl base at KOROPA crossed SOLU River and patrolled S.E. side of river in search of track to bridge at 500754. They found a blown up bridge and unused Jap posn also some cable. No map refs were given by runner and no further report has been received of patrol. The patrol was briefed locally.

1500L. Routine patrol to fwd of FDL's patrolled to sq 5559 to test rope crossing the RAMU, but found ropes too slack. A pnr party has left H.Q. Coy to tighten the ropes.

B Coy. 2000L. Patrol 24 Comd Lieut KENNEDY arrived KOROPA to relieve 8 Pl A Coy in maintaining base during 57/60 Bn patrol to OROGUNA.

C Coy. 1730L. Patrol 23 Comd Lieut CASEY returned to 14 Pl def posn 549689 having run short of rations. Fresh supplies have been forwarded and patrol will leave 13 Jan and attempt to reach Jap track vicinity AMUBA.

D Coy. Local patrols only to fwd of FDL's.

3. GENERAL.

(a) Observations were made of the firing of flares from 15 Bde H.Qs at 1500 and 2100hrs 12 Jan. The flares in the afternoon were seen by BHQ, HQ Coy, B Coy and C Coy. fwd HQs on 5800 feature. All flares were plainly visible but the O.P. on the 5800 feature reported two of the flares to be orange. They were actually one illuminating and one red. D Coy did not see the flares. At 2100hrs the flares were seen by BHQ, HQ and B Coys whilst A Coy saw only the reflection. C and D Coys could not see the flares because of the mist. One flare, a red, was reported to be very weak.

(b) During the afternoon 12 Jan. Maj Gen MILFORD and VASEY inspected the fwd are accompanied by Brig HAMMER and Lt Col SMITH.

*G.F. Smith*  
 Lt Col.  
 (G.F. SMITH)  
 Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

14 Jan 44

1. OPERATIONS.

A Coy.

8 pl Preliminary phone report from Lieut ANDERSON of contact at ONGORONA on 12 Jan states -  
"The patrol did not at any time see any Japs. They approached the posn with one party moving along the track and another party moving up a re-entrant to cover the scouts. The enemy allowed the forward scout to get up to the wire before opening fire first with one rifle shot then with two LMGs along the track and what sounded like a MMG firing down the re-entrant. Rifle fire was also brought to bear on the fwd scout and some members of the patrol on the track. Immediately, the enemy opened fire on the enemy posns with CSMG thus enabling the fwd scout and the leading members of the party on the track to extricate themselves. All members then moved back down the hill to the R.V. Lieut ANDERSON stated that the Japs appeared to be firing on fixed lines with perhaps one or two snipers. He was of the opinion that the party was under observation when they crossed the BOKU River and possibly at KATOKA also. The state of the track indicated that the enemy does not patrol fwd of his posns and two foxholes in excellent posns on each side of the track some 400 yds fwd of the posn were unoccupied. Lieut ANDERSON stated that the sketch of the posn made by 2/14 BN on the previous contact appeared to be most accurate with the exception that no mortar was used. He thinks that the posn can be taken by some outflanking movement. A copy of the report will be forwarded when received.

B Coy.

12 pl completed relief of posn at KOKOPA from 8 pl A Coy. Digging of def posns completed 131645L.

2. PATROLS.

A Coy.

(a). 131516L. 8 pl patrol 16 returned 549621. On 12 Jan patrol 26 which was briefed at KOKOPA, patrolled from KOKOPA to br 500753 and reported NO movement seen at br. Reports are now being prepared and details of contact at ONGORONA 121020L will be fwded when received.

(B) 12-Pl Patrol-27 13 Jan. Routine patrols fwd of FDL's report NO movement seen.

B Coy.

12 Pl Patrol 27 strength 3 from KOKOPA to br at 500753 will leave 140800L. Locally briefed.

C Coy.

(a) 130800L. 13 pl patrol strength 7 Comd Lieut MCINTOSH left 562672 (1:25000 series) for sq 6070 to attempt overlook Jap L of C. Copy of brief is attached as Appx A.

(b) 131130L. 14 pl patrol 23 left 549359 in attempt to reach Jap L of C vicinity MUBA. The patrol was previously forced to return because of shortage of rations. The patrol time has now been extended to six days.

(c) Copy of patrol report covering contact of 101145L is attached as Appx D.

B Coy.

Local patrols fwd of FDLs only. No movement seen. 130840L. O.P. at 558624 observed smoke in timber approx 515609. A Coy routing patrol of 14 Jan will investigate.

3. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.

Attached as appx C are documents collected on the 5800 feature.

4. OWN DISPOSITIONS.

Location statement as at 132400L. is attached as Appx C.

*G.F. Smith*

Lt Col.

(G.F. SMITH)

Comd 24 Aust Inf

From info received up to 142359L.

15 Jan 44

Ref Maps 1" to 1 mile DUMFU  
1" to 25000 MT OTTO  
1" to 25000 URIGINA  
1" to 25000 AMURA

1. Operations  
A Coy

141115L. D Coy 57/60Bn arrived 547623 bivouacking there.

2. PATROLS  
A Coy

140915L patrol 28 strength 4 ors left 549021 to cross KAMU R and ascertain cause of fires reported vid 515609. Patrol was briefed locally.

NOTE This was incorrectly reported in Sitrep 33 as Patrol 27.

B Coy

141200L. 12 PM patrol 27 strength 3 ors to br 500753 returned KOMPA and reported NO mvt seen.

NOTE This was incorrectly reported as Patrol 24 in Sitrep 33.

C Coy

NO reports of patrol 23 and 26.

3. D Coy

Local patrols fwd of FDL's only. NO mvt seen.

4. C.P. REPORTS

132050L. D Coy 57/60Bn reported light observed 141501. Lieut Mc GILLIVRAY, 15 Aust Inf Bde LG, visited area.

*[Signature]*  
WITH )  
Comd 24th Aust Inf Bn. (AIF).

From info received up to 143350L.

143350L

Ref Maps 1" to 1:100,000  
MT OTTO  
VIRGINIA  
1" to 250,000  
AMURA

Operations  
A Coy

143350L. D Coy 27/500M arrived 247523 pivoting there.

PATROLS  
A Coy

143350L. D Coy 27/500M arrived 247523 pivoting there. Patrol 28 strength 4 was left 247523 to cross HAMU R and ascertain cause of fire reported via 215000. Patrol was briefed locally.

B Coy

NOTE This was incorrectly reported in strip 33 as Patrol 27. 143350L. D Coy 27/500M arrived 247523 pivoting there. Patrol 27 strength 3 was to be 200753 returned KOROFA and reported NO MVT seen.

C Coy

NOTE This was incorrectly reported as Patrol 24 in strip 33. NO reports of patrol 28 and 26.

D Coy

Local patrols fwd of 27th W/L's only. NO MVT seen.

O.P. REPORTS

143350L. D Coy O.P. 255254 reported light observed 180 degrees magnetic on North side HAMU R.

CONFIDENTIAL

From information received to 152359L.

SECRET.  
HQ 24 Aust Inf Bn(AI)  
16 Jan '44

REF MAPS :-  
URIGINA 1" to 1 mile

1. OPERATIONS.

C COY. Patrol 26 comd Lieut McINTOSH located possible enemy O.P 586688.

2. PATROLS .

A COY. 141915L patrol 28 returned 549621 having reached approx 528603 where natives reported fires seen vic. 515609 as Kanaka fires.

B COY. (a) Local Protection Patrols report NMS.  
(b) Patrol 29 strength unknown will leave KOROPA L/16 to recce NOE bank RAMU to locate suitable landing beach for supplier barges.

C COY. 141535L.

(a) Patrol 23 comd Lieut CASEY reached first 2000 feature approx 558743. Patrol heard rifle shots approx 1000 yds fwd of patrol also mortar fire. A native followed the patrol apparently a "shadow" to warn the Japs of their approach.

151640L.

(b) Patrol 26 in comd Lieut McINTOSH. Scrub-bashed from F.B. at ck. junction 598674 to 604677, 602680 and 605673. Heard Natives and dogs giving warning to possible enemy O.P at 586688. NO enemy seen.

D COY. Routine-----NMS.

3. AIR OPERATIONS.

150725L 3 MIKES over area 599588. One A/C strafed R.Q area on DUMPU area casualties, one killed, one wounded NOT seriously.

Planes travelled at great speed, height approx 2-300 ft, in DID direction but turned NORTH before reaching 549621.

4. NATIVES .

Reports indicate that Natives in ORGORUNA -NORTH of 5800 feature sec are definitely pro-Jap and untrustworthy.

5. TOPOGRAPHICAL.

Attached as APPENDIX A, track times EVAPIA R- ORGORUNA 2 area. Overlay are being done, showing track time and paces (where possible) in this Bn area.

6. CAPTURED ENEMY DOCUMENTS.

A number of enemy documents including an enemy COB was taken to HQ 7 Aust Div who found them very valuable.

They were found near 14 pl C Coy posn 553692 at 141500L.

7. MOVEMENTS.

A COY. 7 pl to 5800 feature 562672. Move completed.

C COY. 151500L 15 pl 549621 .

8. GENERAL.

ARTY

151000L. OP party arrived 562672.

151100L Capt McCULLOCK, AAMC, 7 Aust Div, and Capt LEFFERS lectured Bn personnel on application of ANTI-MOKKA lotion.

151530L Lieut IRVING 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF), L/O arrived 562672.

*G. F. Smith*  
.....Lt.Col.  
(G.F. SMITH)  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn(AIF)



Intelligence Report No 10. Appx "C"

Hq 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

17 Jan 44

Subject - CAPTURED ENEMY DOCUMENTS.

This document belongs to those forwarded through 15 Aust Inf Bde to 7 Aust Div on 15 Jan, and was found at map ref 553692 AMUBA 1. 25000. This was NOT received at these HQs until 162300L.

From infm received up to 162359L.

17 Jan 44

Ref maps.	DUMPU	1 in to 1 ml.
	MT OTTO	" "
	URIGINA	" "
	AMUBA	1 : 25000

1. OPERATIONS.

Nothing to report.

2. PATROLS.

B Coy.

161700L. Patrol 29 in to KOKOPA. They were unable to reach the RAMU R owing to heavy scrub bashing. Report excellent dropping ground area vic 457727.

Patrol 30, with same object, viz, to recce for landing area for barges will leave 1/17.

Patrol report 24 is attached as Appx B.

C Coy.

As comms have been, and still are out with C Coy it has been impossible to obtain further infm re patrols 23 & 26

D Coy.

151845L. Routine dusk patrol from 18 pl reported 17 friendly natives, including Mary'sm camped in huts 572626.

3. MOVEMENTS.

A Coy is moving forward to attack 591719 - AMUBA 1:25000 passing through C Coy on 5800 feature. C Coy will assume role of A Coy in EVAPIA River area.

161805L. A Coy less 7 pl moved to 5800 feature. NO further report as comms out.

B and D Coys are acting as carriers along the L of C owing to insufficient native carriers.

4. TOPOGRAPHICAL.

Attached as appx "a" Going reports of patrol 2. map with track times AMUBA area forwarded.

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

Comms with 5800 feature have been out since night L15.

6. GENERAL.

(a) Flares reported 160515L in sitrep 36 turned out to be cookhouse fires

(b) 161740-1900L. Brig R. HAMMER, Comd 15 Aust Inf Bde(AIF) visited C.O., Lt Col G.F. SMITH.

*G.F. Smith*  
Lt Col.

(G.F. SMITH)  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

From infm received up to 172359L.

18 Jan 44

1. OPERATIONS.

Nothing to report.

2. PATROLS.B Coy.

L/17. Routine patrol to bridge 500753 report NO movement seen.

NO report of patrol 30 received.

C Coy.

- (a) Infm from Patrols 23 and 26.  
Patrol 23 Comd Lieut CASEY, out 151130L. in 151510L to 549689. Intention was to reach approx 546797 and strike EAST to observe bridge vicinity 574795.  
The patrol route followed the course 549689 to deserted Jap village 548726 559740, 557746 returning by the same route.  
The furthest point reached was 557746 on day 2 at 141445L and natives followed and watched the whole way periodically warning someone of their posn and approach by calls.  
141450L. When vicinity 2600 feature patrol heard rifle shots from 3200 feature 553752 estimated 800 yds distant at 141000L automatic fire was heard from same direction.  
Future patrols are advised to follow main creek EAST from 550727 to 558728 then turn NORTH up the subsidiary creek. 141100L. remains of Jap lean tes found at approx 552729.  
From 555729 to 657747 steps and ladder had been constructed up the steep portions of the track suggesting that this route had been a web used L of C.

- (b) Patrol 26 Comd Lieut McINTOSH out 130800L in 151645L (562672)  
F.B. made at creek June 598674 and from here patrols were sent out. One up creek NW. one up spur N.E. and one along creek EAST. Natives who had them under observation were calling and apparently warning someone of their posn. The patrol suspected possible enemy O.P. N.W. from Creek June on a kunai spur approx 586688.

3. MOVEMENTS.

171800L B.H.Q. opened at new site 564607.

171900L. approx C Coy HQs and 13 pl 549621 from 549689.

It is proposed H.Q. <sup>move</sup> C Coy to new site vicinity 565608 L18.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT. Forwarded separately, Jap pouch, found vicinity DID 553612 approx 171500L.

*G.F. Smith* Lt Col.  
(G.F. SMITH)  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 12.

H.Qs 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

From infm received up to 182359L.

19 Jan 44

Ref Maps- 1 in to 1 ml. DUMPU  
MT OTTO  
MT KUBARI  
URIGINA  
1 : 25000 AMUBA

1. OPERATIONS.

Nothing to report.

2. PATROLS.

A Coy.

Patrol 31 strength 7 out from 549689, 181045L to deserted village 573696 reached at 1230L, returned 549689. Sig line laid to 573696.

B Coy.

Patrol from KOROPA to RAMU river to locate supply landing area, out 170715L in 171130L report good area at 448703. The track time from KOROPA is 1 1/2 hrs. Water is 5ft deep against the bank, and the river is approx one chain in width. The patrol followed track KOROPA - 448703.

3. MOVEMENTS AND DISPOSITIONS.

181200L. H.Q. Coy H.Qs established 564608.

A Coy. 5800 feature 549689.

B.D Coys. L/18 carrying between DID and 5800 feature and DID and EVAPIA River.

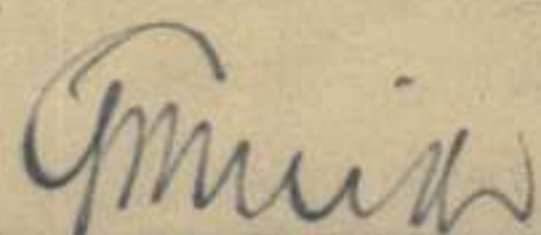
C Coy. 14 pl still on 5800 feature.

B Coy. corrected location THOMPSONS RIDGE 579618.

4. GENERAL.

0915L approx. C.O. Lt Col G.F. SMITH left for SOLU R. area. 1700L. C.O. returned from KESAWAI I.

RAD/R reported that an a/c was seen coming down in flames approx 20 miles N.W. of DUMPU at 1100L. As B Coy on THOMPSONS RIDGE sent a flare illuminating at this time, it was evidently mistaken for an a/c afire.

  
Lt Col.  
(G.F. SMITH)  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

Ref maps 1 in to 1 mi  
DUMPU  
MT OTTO  
MT KUBARI  
URIGINE  
1:25000AMUBAFrom information received up to 192359L.1. OPERATIONS

Nothing to report.

2. PATROLS

A Coy. Patrol activity from deserted village 573696 following native report of Jap heading from Northerly direction to village. Vicinity of village well patrolled. JMS investigation of further report from native source that two white soldiers speaking in a foreign language had been observed, is proceeding. Further reports not yet to hand.

B COY 12 pl patrol from KOROPA located excellent track from KOROPA to east area 485700, the time from that point to KOROPA being 1 hour 45 mins. This track is reported to be in better condition than that previously used.

3. MOVEMENT AND DISPOSITIONS.

A COY Advanced FIRM BASE now established at deserted native village 573696.

B COY 119. Carrying between DID and 5800 feature

C COY 14 pl still on 5800 feature.

13, 15 pls carrying from DID and EVAPIA RIVER.

HQ COY 114 carrying between DID, 5800 feature and EVAPIA River.

4. GENERAL

191250L. Lt Col SMITH left for forward areas on 5800 feature accompanied by Cpl LANGFORD.

191400L FATHER ROSENCROFT arrived 5800 feature.

191430L I.O Bde (Capt REDLEY) passed through area en route to 5800 feature.

191945L Distant loud explosions heard due EAST from advanced FIRM BASE 573696. NO a/c or ground movement

191700L was observed

*W. L. Gray* ..... MAJOR  
for Lt Col SMITH.  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

Information received up to 202339L

Ref Maps 1 inch 1 mile

MT OTTO  
MT KUBARI  
URIGINA  
AMUBA 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

Nothing to report

2. PATROLS

See APPENDIX (A)

A Coy 201545L Patrol 32, Capt KENNEDY and party left native Village 573696 for combat position 595704. No further report yet received.

The native information regarding Jap as reported Intelligence Report NO 10 has brought forward no further developments.

3. MOVEMENT.

- A Coy concentrated 573696
- B Coy defensive improvements.
- C Coy carrying between DID and 5800 feature.
- D Coy defensive improvements
- HQ Coy carrying between DID and 5800 feature.
- BHQ carrying between DID and 5800

4. DISPOSITIONS.

See APPENDIX (B)

5. GENERAL.

201045L Lt Col SMITH and Cpl LANGFORD arrived 5800 feature en route Native village 573696. Cpl REEDY and "I" Cpl arrived at 5800 at 201230L. The HQ Capt SHARPE arrived 5800 feature 201545L en route for Native village.

*W.L. Gray* Maj.  
for Lt Col SMITH.  
comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 212359L

Ref Maps 1" inch 1 mile  
DUMPU  
MT OTTO  
MT KUBARI  
URIGINA  
AMUBA 1/25000

OPERATIONS

A Coy patrol 32

The feint attack on Jap position was made by a platoon from A Coy at 211130. The first shot was fired by a Jap Sniper at approx position 580715. A Bren gunner who was getting his gun into action received G.S.W. in the arm. The enemy opened up with a heavy concentrated fire power giving our lps every indication of their positions. Our patrol then withdrew to NO 3 camp 575706. Own Cas 1 wounded Enemy Nil.

ATROLS

TROLS

B Coy local patrolling from 12 Pl KOROPA base has ascertained that track to destroyed Br at 500753 cleared

MOVEMENTS

201800L. A Coy 9 Pl arrived at NO 3 camp 575706. Coy HQ 788 pls arrived camp 3 211600L

GENERAL

211055. LIEUT ANDERSON H.D evacuated from fwd area with paralyzed left arm. 211315L Capt HEDLEY I.O Bde and Lieut ANDERSON arrived 5800 feature from N A village 573696. 211350L Capt CAMERON and Lieut ANDERSON left 5800 feature for C Coy 549621. Lieut ANDERSON arrived B.H.Q. 564607 211900L and was evacuated. 212110L A Red Warning was received. 212140L The all clear was received. 121 the R.M.O. Capt SHARPE arrived NO 3 Camp 575706 and established a 5 bed staging camp for casualties.

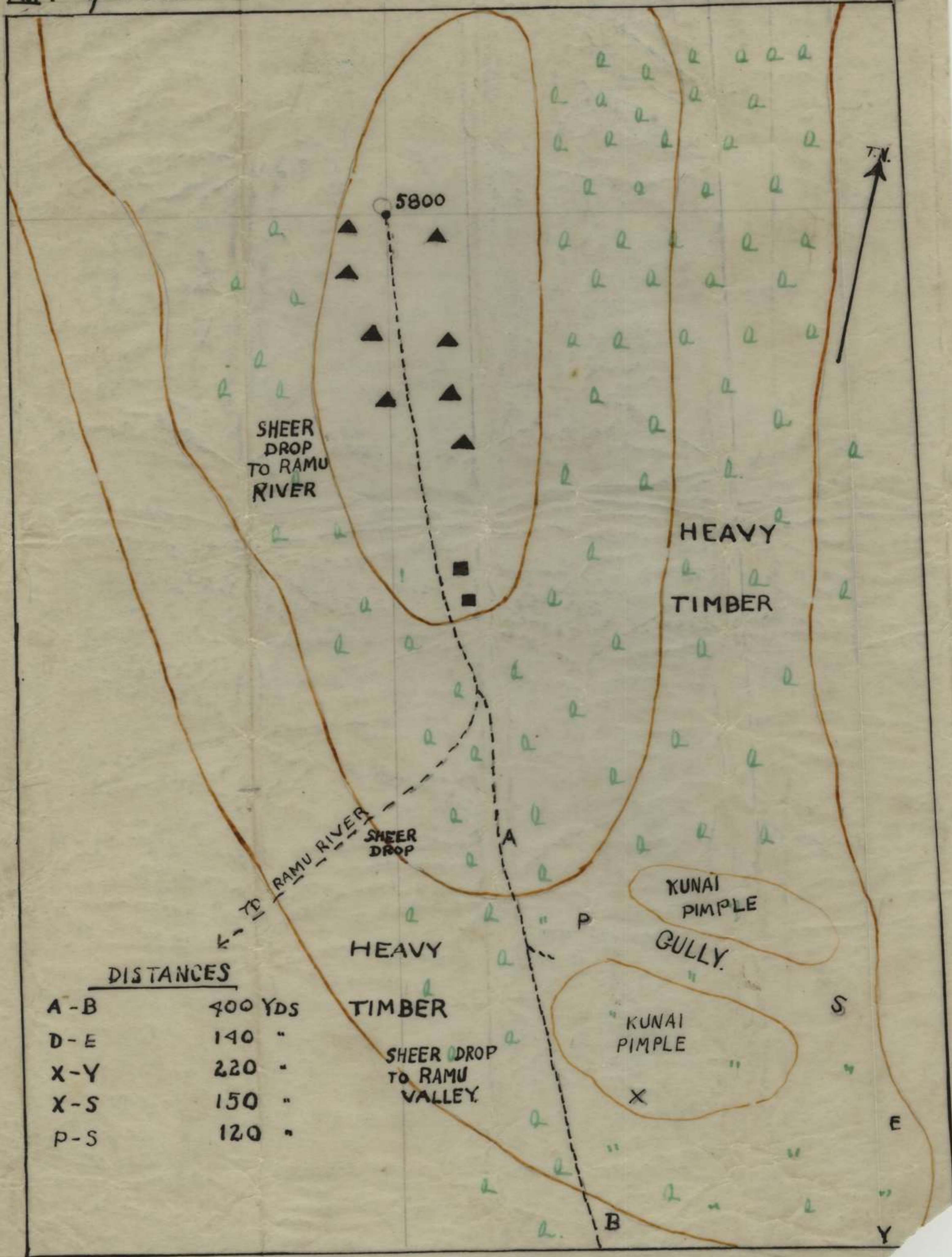
adm

*W.L. Gray*  
.....Maj.  
for Lt Col SMITH  
comd 24 AUST INF BN(AIF)

# PROPOSED-DROPPING-GROUND

REF MAP: AMUBA  
R.F.: 1/25000

MR: 550687 (APPROX)

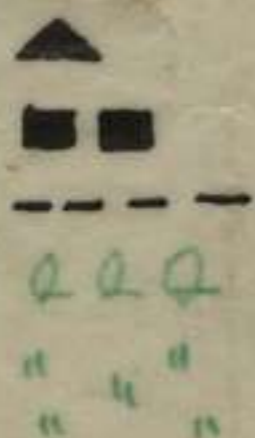


## DISTANCES

A-B	400 YDS
D-E	140 "
X-Y	220 "
X-S	150 "
P-S	120 "

## LEGEND

TENTS  
HUTS  
TRACK  
TIMBER  
KUNAI



NOT-TO-SCALE

FORM LINES By  
TIME AND DATE 16  
NAME AND RANK



Infm received from Lieut KENNEDY O.C. 12 pl B Coy.

MAP CORRECTIONS.

Track from KOROPA to 500753 shown on map cannot be found but a track from 482725 (KOROPA side of SOLU River) to 500753 was found and is ~~xxxxxxx~~ being patrolled by us.

Track marked "JEEPABLE JAP Rd" 12ft wide. KOROPA to EVAPIA non exist.

DROPPINGS GROUNDS.

- i. A suitable place requiring nature labour to slightly clear it, was found.  
Ref point. SSW of KOROPA to 564730 kunai area approx 250yds long long 75 yds wide.
- ii. Failing the above rations can definitely be dropped at 490705 in centre of open kunai patch, 1 1/2 hrs from KOROPA.

SKETCH. The attached sketch of KOROPA defensive posns forwarded for infm.

The main track is booby trapped, but quite safe for own, traps are sprung at BREN posts b means of sig wire. Notices for own troops, passing through. warn them to keep to center of track.

20 Jan 44

Ref map AMUBA 1 : 25000

The kunai patch map ref 550687 (see attached sketch) is about 7 minutes S.E. of spot height of 5800 feature map ref 549689. It is an easily discernable KUNAI PATCH along the ridge surrounded by heavy timber. Sheer drop on WEST side to RAMU Valley and 40 deg approx slope to heavily timbered valley on EAST side.

Native village, 8 huts over a valley (EAST) on next ridge easily seen in a plantation or garden surrounded by heavy timber. Fires as indicators could be lit in the kunai patch.

Overall length of kunai patch is 400 yds, Average width 150 yards. There are two pimples with gully running E W in centre of patch. On EAST boundary of patch is line of thick timber which would stop roll. The best approach for a run would be from NORTH to SOUTH. The spot height of feature 5800 map ref 549689 should prove a good indicator from the air. The ridge runs parallel and to RAMU River and "5800" is at extreme NORTH end.

Signed. C. SANSFIELD.

Pte.

Intell Section.

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

SECRET

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)  
23 Jan 44

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 16.

Infm received up to 222359L

Ref maps. FARIA RIVER 1 : 25000  
Arty plan.  
AMUBA "  
PAIPA "  
AMUSON "

1. OPERATIONS. Nothing to report.

2. PATROLS.

B Coy.

12 pl KOROPA. Local patrol 8 to 458721 report that bridge as shown on map has been destroyed. NO indication has been given whether by design or nature. The patrol moved off the track and reported no sign of enemy.

Report of recce for Dropping ground with sketch attached. map of this area is 458720. see appx. B.

Report with sketch of proposed dropping ground 550687, enclosed see appx C.

3. MOVEMENTS. H.Q. and D Coys carried between D.I.D. and 5800 feature.

4. DISPOSITIONS. See appx A.

5. GENERAL.

Capt HEDLEY, Lieut MACINTOSH, Cpl HODGE, Cpl LANGFORD and pte SARGFIELD left Camp 1 - 549689 for these H.Qs. Cpl LANGFORD through illness has been forced to stay at 57/60 Bn area.

Four reinforcement offrs moved in at 221600L namely Lieuts VX 104472. MASON H.M. VX 88985 HEALEY R.G. NX 146097 FOX F.R. TX 1158 LEWIS C StL. These offrs will be moving to 5800 feature morning L/23.

Requisition was today made to 7 Aust Div for replacement of 1 Bren 2T 1688. Mag Brens 4 and one mortar 2 inch No 3393

*G. F. Smith*  
Lt Col.  
for G.F. SMITH  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

*War Diary.*FROM INFO RECEIVED UP TO ~~231730L~~ 232350L

24 Jan 44

Ref Maps 1 : 25000 series.

1. OPERATIONS. Nothing to report.
2. PATROLS Nothing to report.
3. MOVEMENTS 230715L. Lieuts MASON H.M. HEALEY R G, FOX F R and LEWIS C S/L. moved ~~xxxx~~ from this area 550587 for 5800 feature.
- 231600L. C Coy. 2 secs 14 pl who have the role of rear protection and L of C duties to A Coy ~~xxxx~~ moved from 549000 to 548000 arriving 231730L. One sec still at 549000.
4. GENERAL. 231852L. Registration of arty from approx 535308 was heard, ceasing at approx 232030L and reopening fire at 2100L to 2120L. Reports from Lt Col G F SMITH who is forward indicate that registration was entirely successful.

The AMUBA 1 : 25000 2nd edition in the opinion of our members forward is not as accurate as the first edition. The topography from ground to map in many instances does not agree, which together with inaccuracy of water courses make it most unsatisfactory from the view point of the personnel forward.

A Coy's dispositions on 5800 feature on 2nd edition AMUBA sheet following when checked L24.

*W L Gray* Majt Col.  
for G F SMITH  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

2. PATROLS.

Nothing to report.

3. MOVEMENTS.

Reinforcement officer NX149402 Lieut WHITEBROOK was taken on strength from general reinforcements and at 241400L moved to C Coy 531604.

H.Q. Coy. TR/A pl less 2 members moved from 561585 to Camp 1 529670 for L of C duties.

4. GENERAL.

Casualties in this unit from operations are NOT confirmed and will be advised upon confirmation.

*To L-Flay* Maj.  
for LC COL WITH A O D  
comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

Information received to 242359L.

1. OPERATIONS.

A Coy attack on CAMERONS KNOLL Sq 5670 was a complete success. The operations which were timed to commence at 240900L were delayed in the initial stages owing to Sig communication being cut between the F U P and contact position. Timber cutting was also heard in the Jap position. The first report of action was at 241325L, when following very accurate Arty fire, 8 pl attacked the position on the left flank. Owing to the precipitous nature of the feature however, the enemy with the use of grenades thrown down the cliff like face, compelled the force to withdraw, whilst the Arty shelled the position again.

A 2nd and 3rd attempt was likewise unsuccessful, but owing to fact the "I" personnel attached to this Coy has been forward from the inception, details of these actions cannot yet be given. At 241530L the fourth and final successful attack was made. A foothold being eventually obtained in forward Jap defensive area approx 561701 241730L. The Coy at this stage were unable to use Mortars 3" owing to dense timber, and any attempt at advance left the participating troops open to fire from ridge running South East where enemy MG was placed. After very fierce and long fighting the Coy eventually gained the position at 241855L, and consolidation was immediately commenced. A fighting patrol also moved out along Jap track but no report was to the result <sup>to hand</sup> <sub>A</sub>. 242000L Arty registration of D F Tasks was completed.

The Jap position was not extensive, but aided by the general formation of the feature, had been well prepared.

The Arty was extremely accurate in having broken down the defences. Jap booby traps were encountered wounding one or.

CASUALTIES FOR ACTION.

	OWN			ENEMY		
K	W	M	K	W	P.W.	
1 off, 3 ors	6	2	6 counted			

Many more Japs were killed, but darkness prevented a further count.

26 Jan 44.

25

From info received up to 2300L.

ref maps 1:25000

L OPERATIONS.

After the capture of CAMERONS KNOLL sq 5670 241855L the troops consolidated and prepared to defend the position against enemy counter-attack. However local patrolling from this position to the WEST and EAST and along Jap track has NOT revealed any signs of enemy activity. The Japs in this action for equipment were only a belt and one pouch. In retreat, all documents and warlike stores were either destroyed or removed by them. Identity discs were also removed from bodies only one of which was found, which is being forwarded to this HQ en route 7 Div HQ. Confirmed Casualties in this action are as follows:

	Killed	Wounded	Missing	PW
Inf.	6	7	1	-
Art.	6	-	-	-

VX 15497 Sgt McLENNAN T.A.L. who was previously reported missing was found killed 1/26.

Details of own battle Casualties ----

Inf.  
NX 73579 L/Cpl MICALF U.G.

VX 109888 Cpl DAVIS G.R.

VX 135512 Pte SARGENT V.M.

VX 104472 Lieut MASON H.M.

VX 15497 Sgt McLENNAN T.A.L.

Art.

VX 136314 Cpl GOLDWIN F.E.

Wounded.

VX 106328 Pte MC SWAN J.A. G.S.W. abdomen.

VX 143676 L/Cpl WALTERS F. G.S.W. right knee.

VX 104504 Cpl WARNER H.A. multiple minor shrapnel wounds

VX 147000 Pte EDDY F.G. minor shrapnel wound right knee.

VX 141614 Pte BARRINGER G.A. G.S.W. right thigh.

VX 226091 Pte SAGGERS K.A. G.S.W. head

VX 104507 Pte SCOTT R.J. minor shrapnel wounds chest

251400 Arty registration fwd of CAMERONS KNOLL was effective.

2 PATROLS.

1st  
250900 1st PI REISAWAL ref map 50844676 local patrol from this area to GOLU river area 472735. No recent signs of Jap occupation were observed but reported that shots were heard in direction thought to be DALLAWAN 550778 at 251030L.

3 REINFORCEMENT.


B Coy 251350L OC and 10 PI arriving REISAWAL 446678 from THOMPSONS RIDGE area 508095. 251100L II PI left THOMPSONS RIDGE to move to CAMP I 529-70 to effect relief of 1st PI C Coy. 250630 13 ers left THOMPSONS RIDGE to carry fire DID to Camp I.

1st PI. 1 sec of this pl moved to SPANISH BARR (a r not pinpointed) from CAMP I.

4 GENERAL.

250800 BRIG HANMER visited this H. C. moving out 251700L.

Due to limited amount of traffic on L/T to A Coy fwd posns, difficulty is experienced in obtaining detailed information.

  
CAPT  
for Lt Col SMITH A.O.D.  
CMD 24 AUST INF BN (A.I.F.)

From info received up to 2359hrs 26Jan.

ref maps 1:25000 series

1 OPERATIONS

SPENDLIVE

A Coy. A fighting patrol drawn from TK/A pl moved 261000L from SPENDLIVE SFUR approx 557699 on a general bearing of 35deg magnetic for 40 minutes to approx 568678. At this juncture a vacated Jap def posn was found. This posn is capable of holding a Coy, having up to 50 slit trenches underground sleeping quarters and kitchen. There is also an OP in a tree approx 40 feet high. Its view is confined to the RAMU valley to the EAST and WEST the vision is obscured by trees, to the NORTH by a range of hills approx 100yds away. A fresh Jap footprint was noted approx 12 hrs old and a Jap document was found. Many empty tins were observed.

The patrol proceeded on a bearing of 110 29deg magnetic to approx 570692.

A Coy with 2 secs 14 pl C Coy, 1 det mortars and TK/A pl moved to an evacuated Jap posn 568678.

VX 136064 Cpl GOODWIN previously reported missing now reported killed.

2 PATROLS.

Local patrols along Jap tracks for 1500 yds have been active but although signs of recent occupation evident NO contact made.

3 MOVEMENT.

A Coy. and attached tps from SPENDLIVE SFUR to Jap def posn 568678.

B Coy. 11 pl Lieut POWNALL and 3 Cms to Camp 1 529670 from THOMAS CNS ridge 560597.

4 TOPOGRAPHICAL

SPENDLIVE

~~SPENDLIVE~~ SFUR approx 557699.  
CAMERONS KNOLL approx 580692.

5 GENERAL.

Nothing to report.



Capt.  
for Lt. COL SMITH A.C.D.  
Comd 24 AUST INF BN (A.I.F.)  
AUSTRALIA.



23 Jan 44

Ref Maps 1 : 25000 series.

1. OPERATIONS.

A Coy. 271207L. Patrol contacted enemy at approx 565712.  
No further infm as to enemy strength is to hand.

271715L. 7 pl patrol to locate Arty C.P. reached 572703.  
Arty registration of SAIPA 2 was completed.

Small pads were found by 7 and 9 pls showing footprints of  
one Jap moving SE from 567705 to 569699.

A party of 5 Japs was contacted at 567795. No further infm  
regarding this contact has come to hand.

2. PATROLS. Nothing to report.

3. COMMUNICATIONS.

L/T comms with A Coy have been out L27 owing to line being  
swept away by the flooding of the EVAFIA River.  
W/T comms were fairly satisfactory during day but contact  
could not be maintained after 271700L.

4. AIA OPS - OWN.

271015L. SAIPA 2 was strafed by our A/C and as patrols were  
endeavouring to reach this area, enquiries were made to  
ascertain period of probable strafing.

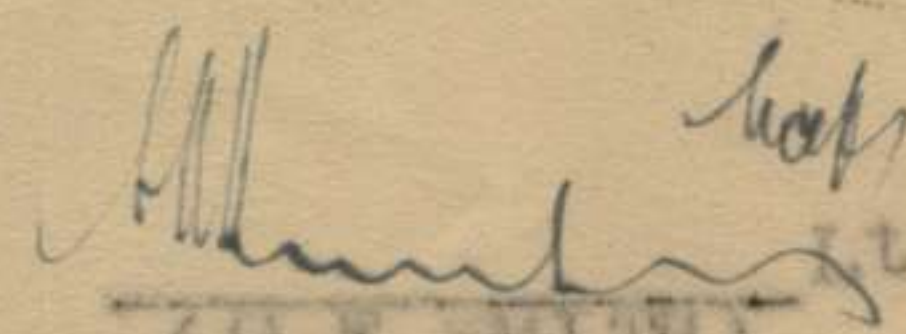
Advice was received from 15 Bde that the BOMBLINE was NORTH of  
SAIPA 2 therefore the area could be considered safe for our  
troops.

5. MOVEMENTS.

Nothing to report.

6. GENERAL.

Owing to the flooding of the EVAFIA River, anticipated carrying  
from D.I.D. to 5800 feature could not be made. It is intended  
however that every available man will carry from D.I.D. to 5800  
feature L/28.

  
Lt Col.  
(C F SMITH)  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

Patrol from 8 pl a Coy with one det 4 pl returned 231720L from CAMPBELL KNOLL. The patrol moved EAST to 567698 and then along a path to 568690 then returned to 567698. Patrol then continued to approx 581500 where an excellent prepared lookout was found overlooking the HANU valley. 200 yards further EAST chopping etc was heard then firing rattling and talking. A recon party then moved forward and saw a fire and the etc. A fire lane also covered the track. This man is thought to be strong. The patrol then returned to CAMPBELL KNOLL.

further info - Airborne camera as seen from O.P. but thought that all planes coming in and out can be observed.

Main position which is 200 yards EAST of O.P. is on ridge. SOUTH side is a vertical drop of 150 ft to HANU river. It is steep on the Northern side but thought possible to get around on SOUTH side.

Ridge runs EAST - WEST and main defenses are thought to face the EAST except one pill box which covers track to O.P.

Map ref of posn is 582 581690 which is only approx.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 22.

H.Qs 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

Inf received up to 282359L.

29 Jan 44

Ref maps 1:25000 series.1. OPERATIONS. Nothing to report.2. FATAL AND CONTACT.

A Coy. 270958L. Patrol by 9 pl and det from 4 pl moved from CAMERON'S KNOLL. Contact was made with party of 5 Japs at 567705 at 271207L. The enemy were following the tracks of our patrol and the contact was made whilst a recce of 2 members of this patrol were investigating fresh jap tracks leading S.W. The enemy called out before being seen and were armed with one LMG, thought to be a Bren and 4 rifles. Contact posn was in the area that had been occupied by approx 4 japs for one night and one meal previously. After contact our patrol scrub bashed on a compass bearing to CAMERON'S KNOLL. Casualties - Enemy. 1 wounded. Own NIL.

B Coy.

Patrol 8 pl 128 . See Appx "A"  
 Routine patrols from 12 pl at KAPOPA to SOLU River area 473734 returned F.M. 1/28 and reported no movement seen.

3. MOVEMENTSA Coy.

281630L. 7 pl arrived Camp 3 from CAMERONS KNOLL.  
 281635L. One det mortars left CAMERONS KNOLL for Camp 3.  
 281600L. 9 pl left CAMERONS Knoll for Camp 3.

B Coy.

281930L. Total of 3 Offrs 40 OIs arrived at CAMERONS KNOLL.

4. GENERAL.

The relief of A Coy by D Coy is in progress. A Coy HQs and 8 pl with 4 pl only, being at CAMERONS KNOLL.

281740L. Lt Col G F SMITH arrived at this H.Q. from forward area 5800 feature.

*G F Smith*  
 Lt Col.  
 G F SMITH  
 Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

info received up to 232354L.

30 Jan 42

Ref maps 1 : 25000 series

1. OPERATIONS. Nothing to report.

2. PATROL AND CONTACT

B Coy.

20040L. Patrol 3 Offrs 20 ORs plus arty personnel moved out from 560699 to clear village 563712.  
 Patro. moved down to stream 560701 thence NE up spur to rd 567705 thence NW down gentle slope.  
 1045L. Fwd scouts reported Jap def posn with cut lanes of fire at 566705. one sec was sent fwd with one sec left on one right flank to get approx strength of enemy.  
 1100L. Enemy opened fire with OSMG, LMGs and rifles, strength estimated at one sec. Arty then registered on Jap posn while patrol withdrew 150 yds.  
 1230L. patrol occupied enemy posn, enemy having withdrawn. Jap footprints found about area and down the track towards village. Patrol had meal and waited till arty were ready for action.  
 1345L. Patro. prepared to move down razorback track to village when fired on by OSMG, LMGs rifles and mortar. Patrol took a posn on spur and returned enemy fire. Arty fire was brought to bear on enemy posns and several hits were registered. Enemy strength estimated at more than one pl. in well dug in posns.  
 1430L. Patrol withdrew under cover of arty fire and arrived 560699 at 1600L. NO casualties were suffered by the patrol. One Jap was probably wounded in the first encounter. 9 mm shells and rifle jam were found in the Jap posn. Posn had been freshly dug and cleared lanes of fire.

291430L. A second patrol of one Offr & ORs left deserted village 547678 to recon village 541704. NO further report of this patrol to hand.

3. MOVEMENTS.  
A Coy.

290900L. Relief of A Coy by B Coy completed when Coy HQ moved out from 560699 - CAMERONS.  
 291400L. 7 and 9 pls left 528670.  
 291730L. 7 pl arrived C Coy HQ 528604.  
 Coy HQ at CAMERONS 528670.  
 8 pl arrived 546677 (deserted village)

B Coy.

291000L. Coy H.Q. moved to 491643 from 559597.

C Coy.

one sec 13 pl arrived 528604.

H.Q. Coy

191840L. one det mortars moved through 528604 en route B I D - NO report of arrival.

4. GENERAL.

The R M O has advised that he is evacuating river camp 55 He will establish a staging post at deserted village 5476 and he himself will return to fwd base during period of aggressive patrolling.

Capt WILLIAMS

L/28. McJ TRAVINS and Capt HEDLEY/visited this H Q.

*G F SMITH* Lt Col.  
 (G F SMITH)  
 Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

From info received up to 300000.

ref says 1/25000 series

Nothing to report.

1. FRONTIER.

2. PATROLS.

A. Coy.

301300L Patrol 2 to clear village 5672 returned. Patrol found village deserted and saw no signs of recent occupation. Patrol route via 546577, 546582 then N. on EAST along SOLU river to 546585 then NORTH to village 541704. Patrol route in EAST to 54874 then SS to river 546585.

301300L Patrol 3 from CAMPONS 56604 travelled WEST down spur to 551499 returned with N.I. report.

301300L Patrol 4 from CAMPONS returned. Route out EAST along spur to track June 57000. Patrol set an ambush of 1 sec strength to protect patrol rear. Patrol continued NORTH down spur. At approx 57300 footprints about 2 days old, of Wap and 1 native were observed on the track. Patrol continued along spur to 571704 where O.P. with view NE to SAITE and EAST along NINH-JIM valley was established. From here the arty was seen to register on village 64697 on a bearing 100 deg mag. Patrol reported in to CAMPONS 301605L.

3. MOVEMENTS.

A. Coy.

Coy HQ, 7 B and 8 Pls and attachments are now in posn LANDSLIDE HILL area, vic 538611.

B. Coy.

Coy HQ now established with 10 Pl vicinity IFRAWAI 495638.

4. GENERAL.

301400L Lt. COL SMITH left HQ area for 15 hrs, returning at 301920L.

-----Lt. Col.  
(G.F. SMITH)

Comd 24 AUST. INF. BN (A.I.F.)

APPX

B

←

No	Coy	LOCATION	MR.
1	24 AIB (AIF) BN HQ	MENE R. AREA	D 599588
2	H.Q. Coy	HQ	D 592584
		1 Pe	D 599588
		2 Pe less 1 sec	D 592584
		3 Pe less 1 det	D 592584
		4 Pe	D 592584
		5 Pe	DID area Bridge Construction
		6 Pe	MENE R. area

anticipated mt 14 JAN 44

2 Pe	1 sec (2 guns)	<del>EVAPIA R. area</del> BCoy	O 569621
3 Pe	2 dets	"	O 569621
	1 det	A Coy -	O 549621

3	A Coy	HQ	EVAPIA R. area	O 549621
		7 Pe	" "	O 547622
		8 Pe	" "	O 549621
		9 Pe	" "	O 549622

4	B Coy	HQ	THOMPSON'S RIDGE.	O 569621
		10 Pe	" "	O 568622
		11 Pe	" "	O 571621
		12 Pe	KOROPA area	U 464732

5	C Coy	HQ (fwd)	5800 feature area	A 562672
		(rear)	" " "	O 597587
		13 Pe less 1 sec	" " "	A 562672
		1 sec	patrolling (MACS PATROL) to	A sq 6070
		14 Pe less 1 sec	5800 feature area	A 549689
		1 sec	patrolling (CASEYS PATROL) to	A sq 5971
	15 Pe	5800 feature area.	A 562672	

6	D Coy	HQ plus 1 det 3 Pe	EVAPIA R. AREA	O 558624	
		" 1 sub sec 2 Pe	LANDSLIDE HILL		
		16 Pe less 1 sec			O 559624
		1 sec			O 560624
		17 Pe less 2 sec			O 556625
		1 sec			O 558625
		1 sec			O 555624
		18 Pe less 1 sec			O 568624
		plus 1 sub sec 2 Pe			
			1 sec		O 573618

LEGEND

REF MAP	IN	IML	DUMPU	KEY
"	"	"	MTOTTO	O
"	"	"	URIGINA	U
"	"	"	AMUBA	A

1:25000

O I No 1

Ref map AMUBA 1 :25000

To Capt E.M. KENNEDY.

From Lt Col G.F.SMITH.


INFM

JAP force estimated at one pl incl one MMG 2 LMG is occupying posn at CAMERON KNOLL 587720 astride the track KESAWAI 2 - AMUBA to protect his L of C SHAGGY RIDGE - YAULA - BOGADJIM. Contact with approx 1 Jap sec was made at 621651 and def posns seen at 626695 by 2/6 Cav Commando Regt on 18 Jan 44 and it is likely JAPS are holding general line of the feature parallel to his L of C with light outposts to give an impression of strength.

TASK.

With one pl you will demonstrate by fire only against CAMERON KNOLL with a view to drawing his fire and locating his fire posns. The pl should choose an area and direction different from that selected for later attack, and prepare for local counterattack by the JAP. Flares and other devices from present stocks will be used to puzzle the enemy. After the demonstration you will withdraw to a prepared ambush posn in case the JAP follows you and remain for at least 3 daylight hours. The date for the demonstration is 21 Jan 44, but the time will be at your discretion.

I have allotted amn as follows :-  
303 ball 1500rds  
9 mm ball 720 rds  
2" mor HE 18 rds  
2" mor smk 6 rds  
gren 7 sec 24

  
Lt Col.  
(G.F.SMITH)

Time 191345L  
Method of issue SAFE HAND.

A CK

Distribution	Copy No
Capt E.M.KENNEDY	1
Lt col G.F.SMITH	2
Bde Comd	3
War Diary	4 & 5
File	6



APPY

E

APPX

E

## METEOROLOGICAL NOTES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

Date	First Light	Darkness	Clouds	Visibility	Wind	Ceiling	General
Jan 1	0630	1930	Scattered	fair	SE breeze in afternoon	8000	Fine and warm.
2	0625	1915	"	"	" "	10000	" "
3	0625	1930	Overcast	"	" 15mph	7000	Heavy rain at 1700 hrs.
4	0635	1925	Scattered	good	" breeze	12000	Fine and warm
5	0622	1930	"	"	"	11000	" "
6	0635	1915	"	"	"	12000	" "
7	0640	1925	"	"	"	8000	" "
8	0650	1910	Overcast	poor	"	3000	Heavy rain during day.
9	0630	1925	Scattered	fair	"	8000	Fine and warm. rain during night.
10	0640	1915	Overcast	"	"	9000	Heavy rain at 1400hrs.
11	0633	1920	Scattered	good	"	7000	Fine and warm.
12	0635	1925	Overcast	poor	"	5000	Heavy rain in afternoon
13	0645	1910	"	"	"	3000	" "
14	0650	1920	Scattered	fair	"	9000	Fine and hot.
15	0620	1925	Overcast	good	"	11000	Fine and warm.
16	0640	1930	Scattered	"	"	8000	" in morning rain in afternoon
17	0645	1925	Overcast	fair	"	10000	light rain during day
18	0640	1910	"	"	"	5000	heavy rain in afternoon.
19	0640	1920	"	"	"	9000	Hot
20	0645	1915	Scattered	good	"	13000	Fine and hot. very clear day.
21	0650	1925	"	fair	"	9000	Fine and hot.
22	0647	1928	"	"	"	7000	light rain in afternoon
23	0650	1915	Overcast	good	"	9000	Fine and warm.
24	0650	1930	"	poor	"	9000	rain in afternoon. and evening
25	0655	1900	"	fair	"	6000	fine and warm.
26	0650	1925	Scattered	"	"	11000	" " "
27	0630	1935	overcast	"	"	5000	heavy rain 1530 hrs
28	0640	1940	"	poor	"	3000	heavy rain during day.
29	0635	1930	Scattered	"	"	5000	rain during dan and night
30	0645	1920	"	fair	"	10000	fine and warm.
31	0640	1930	"	good	"	12000	" " "

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

531/2/44

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 8 / 1 / 1944 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)

W.E.II / 120 / 2 OFFRS. 32 O.R.'s. 755 + OFFRS. 1 O.R.'s. 34 ATT. BY W.E.  
(less 0 x 2 Mainland)

## PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
-	-	-	1	Lieut.-Colonels					
NIL	1	-	2	Majors					
NIL	1	-	7	Captains					
NIL	2	-	17	Lieutenants					
-	-	-	1	Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
NIL	4	-	28						

DETAIL.	A.I.P.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	..	TOTAL
A.	28									28
E.(1)										
E.(2)										

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.  
\*\* Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

### OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX54066	Lieut	LAUGHLIN J.	from Secondment to 32 A I T B	29/12/43	Marched in at Rear Details (Information received 2/1/44)

### OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX104165	T/Capt	GRAHAM I.P.	X list	29/12/43	Evac to Hospital from Rear Details (Information Received 4/1/44)
NX57168	Lieut	EGAN C.J.	X list	6/1/44	Evac to Hospital
NX137479	Capt	SENDER L.	X list	2/1/44	" " "

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO ..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. .... / ..... / 194.....

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

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) Unit

B31/2/44 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 8/1/1944 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
V/Lt Col	VX185	SMITH	G.F.	G O	Yes		
Major	VX361	FLAY	N.L.	21/c	"		
"	VX57	CARROLL	K.A.	OC HQ	"		
Capt	VX104144	WHITELAW	S.H.	OC D	"		
T/Capt	VX104147	ISSER WOOD	R.S.	Q M	"		
"	VX104148	FLEWELLEN	J.A.	OC G	"		
"	VX51557	DUELL	A.R.	OC B	"		
"	VX104149	CAMERON	R.A.	21/c	"		
"	NX150345	BUMBURY	C.R.	Adjt	"		
"	VX85256	SKINNER	F.L.	21/cd	"		
"	VX104153	KENNEDY	E.M.	OC A	"		
Lieut	VX104154	CASSEY	H.H.	23 Pl	"		
"	VX104152	HARRIS	P.P.	3 "	"		
"	VX104153	IRVING	W.M.		No	Det 15 Aust Inf Bde as LO	11/8/43
"	VX104156	BEATTIE	A.R.	1 Pl	Yes		
"	VX48421	KENNEDY	M.B.	10 Pl	"		
"	VX104160	ROBINSON	E.R.	17 Pl	"		
"	VX104265	ANDERSON	N.D.		No	Det Rear Details	
"	VX51657	SMITH	W.E.	5 Pl	Yes	Moresby	28 Nov 43
"	VX51666	LAUREN	J.	8 Pl	"		
"	VX104163	FINLAYSON	F.A.		No	Det Rear Details	
"	VX104151	BUNBELL	A.W.C.	1 O	Yes	Moresby	7/11/43
"	VX104426	DAWSON	P.R.	12 Pl	"		
"	VX41023	LOCKER	L.W.A.	18 Pl	"		
"	IX68094	BARLING	D.R.	7 Pl	No	Det for Leave	3/12/43
"	NX71776	ALDERDICE	C.B.	4 Pl	Yes		
"	OX37626	POWELL	D.L.		No	Det Rear Details	
"	NX37616	McINTOSH	R.P.		No	Det Rear Details	22/11/43
						Moresby	9/12/43

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Chaplain	VX111284	ENGLISH J.C.	15 Bde	25/5/43	Chaplain
T/Capt	VX107369	SHARP F.L.R.	15th Bde	3/1/44	Acting RMO

8 Jan 44 Date of Despatch

Truth 7/43.

Signature of Commander Lt Col

Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)  
15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)  
7 Aust Div

## FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 15 / 1 / 194 4 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

W.E. II 120 / 2 OFFRS. 32 O.R.'s. 755 OFFRS. 1 O.R.'s. 34 ATT. BY W.E.

### Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
-	-	-	1	W.Os. Class I.					
4 NR	4	-	2	W.Os. Class II.					
1 NR	1	-	4	Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sets.					
-	-	-	-	Staff Sergeants	(see back for details)				
2 NR	2	1	31	Sergeants					
9 NR	9	-	56	Corporals					
219	219	6	433	Troopers, Privates, etc.					
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
235	235	7	527	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		30*		4	4*

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

\*\* Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail	A.I.F.	C.M.F.		A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.P.	**	TOTAL.
		Under 19 Years	19 Years and over.							
A	445	-	111	1						557
B(1)										
B(2)										

#### Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

#### Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
2	AA Amenities Services			5	NGF Trg School	8	Rear Details MORESEY
3	15 Aust Inf Bde			8	Sig School 15 Bde	1	DRO WARWICK
						1	A W L
				2	Det 15 Bde	41	LEAVE
				4	Fd Bakery DUMPU		
				4	Sta Comd DUMPU		
				3	8 Aust Mvt Control		
				1	AAOG Officers Shop MORESEY		

#### Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To ..... (Unit) is Particularly Requested. .... / ..... / 194

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

**PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 15/ 1/1944.**

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
				<b>FORWARD</b>	1	1	-	<b>FORWARD</b>	17	21	1	<b>FORWARD</b>	57	58	6
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, E.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters		1		Riveters	4	3	1
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	1	1	-					Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevadores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				<b>GROUP II.</b>				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers	27	24	3NR	Tailors	4	4	-
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Befitters	2	2	-
Draughtsmen				Bakers		1	-	Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheeler				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters	6	8	-	Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				<b>GROUP III.</b>				<b>DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.</b>			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				WO I	1	1	-
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers	1	-	1NR	WO II	6	2	NR
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	11	11	-	S/Sgts	5	4	1 NR
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply				Sgts	25	24	1 NR
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical				Cpls	54	45	9 NR
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	10	9	1 NR	Coach Trimmers				Ptes	597	384	213
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders							
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics		1	-				
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.		1	-	Engine Hands, I.C.							
Photewriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers	1	-	1NR				
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	1	1	-	CARRIED FORWARD	17	21	1	CARRIED FORWARD	57	58	6	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A, respectively.	789	557	239

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.  
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.  
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.  
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."  
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

15 JAN 44  
Date of Despatch

*Muir*  
Signature of Commander Lt Col  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div.

Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 1/1944  
PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in

REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

Corps	Detail	Strength	Reinforcements	Remarks
AMC	O.T.O. Assistant	1		
	3/sqts	1		
	sgts	1		
	Opis	1		
	Ptes	1		
EME	Sgt (Armourer)	1		
	Cfn (Armourer R.I.)	1		
	Cfn (Fitter Gun R.I.)	1		
APC	Subaltern	1		
	sgts	1		
	Opis	1		
Postal Service	Subaltern	1		
	sgt	1		
AOA	Subaltern	1		
	Cpl (Shoemaker)	1		
AOA	Subaltern	1		
	WO II	1		
	sgts	1		
	Opis	1		
	Ptes R.I.	1		

SURPLUS NOO'S

of Part E:- Driver Mechanics - 1 Supernumerary Tpt Sgt - cannot be absorbed in  
existing W.B.  
Signalers 24:- Includes 1 Supernumerary Sgt acting as IT IT  
(Signaller)

REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED

4 O.S.Ms can be obtained in unit  
1 Intell Sgt can be obtained in unit  
1 stretcher can be obtained in unit.

NON Specialist Personnel

Strength	Reinforcements	Remarks
15	11	Driver Mch
34	28	Driver Mch
1	1	Engine Hand, J.C.
1	1	Equipment Repairer
2	2	Farrier
1	4	Field's Mate
161	207	Gun Layer
20	19	Carried Forward
68	45	Carried Forward
32	26	Carried Forward
26	11	Carried Forward
6	6	Carried Forward
6	6	Carried Forward
15	18	Carried Forward
2	2	Carried Forward

Signature of Commanding Officer  
Date of Despatch



War Diary

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

B31/3/44  
.....(Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 15 / 1 / 194 4 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) (Unit)

W.E. II 129 2 OFFRS. 32 O.R's. 755 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 34 ATT. BY W.E.

## PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL *	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
-	-	-	1	Lieut.-Colonels					
NIL	1	-	2	Majors					
NIL	1	-	7	Captains					
NIL	1	-	18	Lieutenants					
-	-	-	1	Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
NIL	3	-	29						

	DETAIL.	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	..	TOTAL
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).	A.	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
	E.(1)										
	E.(2)										
	A.I.F. A CLASS B										

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.  
\*\* Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

### OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX13767	Lieut	<sup>ROA</sup> <del>BEADHEAD</del> AH	General Reinforcements (INF)	9 Jan 44	Auth Posting Order NG/1

### OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO ..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. .... / ..... / 194 .....

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

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) Unit

B31/3/44 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 15/1/1944 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
T/Lt Col	VX185	SMITH	G.F.	C O	Yes		
T/Maj	WX361	PLEAY	N.L.	2 1/e	"		
"	VX57	CARROLL	K.A.	OC HQ	"		
Capt	VX104144	WHITSLAW	S.H.	OC D	"		
T/Capt	VX104147	ISHERWOOD	R.S.	Q M	"		
"	VX104148	FLEWELLEN	J.A.	OC C	"		
"	VX51557	DUELL	A.R.	OC B	"		
"	VX104149	GAMERION	R.A.	21/e C	"		
"	WX156345	BUNBRY	C.R.	Adjt	"		
"	VX85256	SKINNER	F.L.	21/e D	"		
"	VX104153	KENNEDY	E.M.	OC A	"		
Lieut	VX104154	CASEY	H.H.	14 Pl	"		
"	VX104162	HARBERLE	P.F.	21/e B	"		
"	VX104158	IRVING	W.M.		NO	det 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) as L O	11/8/43
"	VX104156	BEATTIE	A.R.	1 Pl	Yes		
"	VX48421	KENNEDY	M.B.	12 Pl	"		
"	VX104160	ROBINSON	E.R.	17 Pl	"		
"	VX104065	ANDERSON	N.D.	8 Pl	"		
"	VX51657	SMITH	W.E.	5 Pl	"		
"	VX54066	LAUGHLIN	J.	7 Pl	"		
"	VX104163	PINLAYSON	T.A.	9 Pl	"		
"	VX104151	BUNSELL	A.W.C.	I O	NO	Attending NCF School of Photo Interpretation	14/1/44
"	VX104423	DAWSON	P.R.	10 Pl	Yes		
"	VX41023	LOCKER	L.W.A.	18 Pl	"		
"	WX68094	BARLING	D.R.		NO	Detached for Leave	3/12/43
"	WX71776	ALDERIDGE	C.B.	4 Pl	Yes		
"	WX37626	POWELL	D.L.	11 Pl	"		
"	WX67616	MCINTOSH	R.F.	15 Pl	"		
"	VX113767	BROADHEAD	A.H.	13 Pl	"		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Capt	WX107369	SHARP F.L.R.	15Fdamb	3/1/44	Acting R M O

15 JAN 44  
Date of Despatch

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Commander Lt Col  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)  
15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div.



**PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 22 / 1 / 1944 .**

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.) Forward	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.) Forward	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.) Forward	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assis.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, B.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers	4	3	1
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters	-	1	-	Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	1	1	-					Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevadores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	4	4	-
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers	27	24	3NR	Tailors	2	1	1N
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers	-	1	-	Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters	6	8	-	Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				NO I	1	1	-
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers	1	-	1NR	NO II	6	2	4N
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	11	10	1NR	Sgts	5	5	-
Grinder, Precision				Hello Operator				Clerks, Supply				Sgts	25	18	7N
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical				Cpls	54	43	11N
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	10	8	2NR	Coach Trimmers				Ptes	597	358	2
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals				See Back			
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.				AAMC	4	3	1
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics	-	1	-	AEMB	3	2	1
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tpin. Plant				AAPC	2	2	-
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.	-	1	-	Engine Hands, I.C.				AA Postal			
Photewriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers	1	1	-	Service	1	1	-
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers				AAOC	1	1	-
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates				AACC	23	21	2
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	1	1	-	CARRIED FORWARD	17	19	2	CARRIED FORWARD	57	56	7	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	789521	27	27

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.  
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.  
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.  
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."  
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

22 JAN 44

Date of Despatch

15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div

Signature of Commander

Lt Col



# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

B31/4/44 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 22 / 1 / 1944 24 Aust Inf Bde (Unit) AIF

W.E. 11 120 2 OFFRS. 32 O.R.'s. 755 + OFFRS. 1 O.R.'s. 34 ATT. BY W.E.

## PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
-	-	-	1	Lieut.-Colonels					
NIL	1	-	2	Majors					
NIL	1	-	7	Captains					
NIL	4	-	15	Lieutenants					
-	-	-	1	Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
NIL	6	-	26		-	-	-	-	-

DETAIL.	A I F	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	..	TOTAL
	A CLASS B										
A.	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
E.(1)											
E.(2)											

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.  
\*\* Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

### OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

### OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX104158	Lieut	IRVING W M	15 Aust Inf Bde	14/9/43	Seconded
VX104156	"	BEATTIE AR	X List	17/1/44	Evacuated to Hospital
VX104065	"	ANDERSON N D	X List	21/1/44	Evacuated to Hospital

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO ..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. .... / ..... / 194 .....

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

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) Unit

B31/4/44 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 22./1./1944 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
T/Lt Col	VX185	SMITH	G F	C O	Yes		
T/Major	WX361	FLEAV	N L	2 i/c	"		
"	VX57	CARROLL	K A	OC HQ	"		
Capt	VX104144	WHITELAW	S H	OC D	"		
T/Capt	VX104147	ISHERWOOD	R S	Q M	"		
"	VX104148	FLEWITTEN	J A	OC C	"		
"	VX51557	DUELL	A R	OC B	"		
"	VX104149	CAMERON	R A	2i/c C	"		
"	WX150345	BUNBURY	C R	Adjt	"		
"	VX85256	SKINNER	F L	2i/c D	"		
"	VX104153	KENNEDY	E M	OC A	"		
Lieut	VX104154	CASEY	H H	14 P1	"		
"	VX104162	HAEBERLE	P F	2 i/c B	"		
"	VX48421	KENNEDY	M B	12 P1	"		
"	VX104160	ROBINSON	E R	17 P1	"		
"	VX51657	SMITH	W E	5 P1	"		
"	VX54066	LAUGHLIN	J	7 P1	"		
"	VX104163	FINLAYSON	F A	9 P1	"		
"	VX104151	BUNSELL	A W C	I O	NO	Photo Interpretation School	14 JAN 44
"	VX104426	DAWSON	P R	10 P1	YES		
"	VX41023	LOOKER	L W A	18 P1	"		
"	NX68094	BARLING	D R		NO	Detached for Leave	3 Dec 43
"	NX71776	ALDERDICE	C B	4 P1	Yes		
"	OX37626	POWNALL	D L	11 P1	"		
"	NX67616	McINTOSH	R F	15 P1	"		
"	VX113767	BROADHEAD	A H	13 P1	"		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Capt	NX107369	SHARP F L R	15FdAmb	3/1/44	Acting RMO

22 JAN 44  
Date of Despatch  
Truth—7/43.

*[Signature]*  
Lt Col  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) AOD  
15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div





**PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 29/ 1/1944 .**

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
				Forward	1	1	-	Forward	17	18	3	Forward	57	54	8
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assis.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Range-takers	4	3	1
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	1	1	-					Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	4	4	-
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers	27	23	4NR	Tailors	2	1	1NR
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers	-	1	-	Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters	6	8	-	Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators											
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator								GROUP III.			
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman								DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker								WO I	1	1	-
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator								WO II	6	4	2NR
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator								S/Sgts	5	5	-
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	10	7	3NR					Sgts	25	20	5NR
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners								Cpls	54	41	13NR
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman								Ptes	597	349	24NR
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lithographers											
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers											
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal											
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood											
Pattern Maker				Masons											
Pharmacist				Masseurs											
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.	-	1	-								
Photewriter				Miners											
Plumber				Moulders											
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained											
Surveyors				Observation Post Assis.											
CARRIED FORWARD	1	1	-	CARRIED FORWARD	17	18	3	CARRIED FORWARD	57	54	8	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	789	514	2*

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.  
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.  
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.  
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."  
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

29 JANUARY 1944  
Date of Despatch

Comd 24 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div  
Lt Col

Army Corps

Detail

Posted Surplus WE

Deficient WE

Reinfts Required

Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 hours Saturday 22/11/44

Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in

NAME	Grade	WE	Posted	Surplus WE	Deficient WE	Reinfts Required
	S/Sgts	1				
	Sgts	1				
	Cpls	1				
	Ptes	1				
	Sgt (Armourer)	1				
	Cfn (Armourer TG I)	1				
	Cfn (Fitter gun)	1				
AAPC	Sgts	1				
	Cpls	1				
AA Postal Service	Sgt	1				
AAOC	Cpl (Shoemaker)	1				
AAOC	WO II	1				1 MR
	Sgts	6	1			
	Cpls	6	1			
	Ptes TG II	10	2			2 (1 MR)
		32	3			5 (3 MR)

SURPLUS NCO's

- Ref Part E; Driver Mechanics:- 1 Supernumerary Tpt Sgt - Cannot be absorbed in present WE
- " " " Signallers 23:- Includes 1 Supernumerary Sgt acting as TGII (Signaller)
- " " " Clerks 10:- Includes 1 Supernumerary Cpl acting as TG III (Clerk)

DEFICIENCIES NCO's

- WO II:- 2 CSMs Can be obtained in Unit
- Sgts :- 1 Intell Sgt 1 Sgt Tailor and 5 general Duty can be obtained in unit
- Cpls :- 2 Cpls (Stretcher Bearers) 1 Cpl (Signaller) 1 Cpl (Intell) and 11 genar duty can be obtained in unit

NON Specialist Personnel

	WE	Posted	Reinfts Required
Ts/A Gun numbers	15	12	3
Batmen	34	28	6
General dutymen - Officers Mess	1	1	-
" " " Sgt	2	2	-
Hygiene Dutymen	4	3	1
LMG and riflemen	361	178	183
MM numbers	20	17	3
Mortars	68	43	25
Orderlies	32	26	6
Pioneers	28	12	16
Regtl Police	6	3	3
Storemen	6	5	1
Stretcher Bearers	18	18	0
Water Dutymen	2	1	1
	597	349	248

NOTE:- (a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.  
 (b) Attached trades or specialties not included in list will be added as required in space provided.  
 (c) Where W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are detailed show details on back.  
 (d) Where reinforcement not detailed note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. or Col. "Reinfts Required".  
 (e) Where any request or variation is made on back of form, the words "see back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

Date of Dispatch

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

B31/5/44 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 29 / 1 / 194 4.24 Aust Inf B Unit (AIF)

W.E. II/120 2. OFFRS. 32 O.R's. 755 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 34 ATT. BY W.E.

## PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
-	-	-	1	Lieut.-Colonels					
NIL	1	-	2	Majors					
NIL	2	-	6	Captains					
NIL	1	-	18	Lieutenants					
-	-	-	1	Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
NIL	4	-	28						

DETAIL.	AIF	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	..	TOTAL.
A.	A CLASS B										28
E.(1)	28	-									
E.(2)											

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.  
\*\* Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

### OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX104472	Lieut	MASON H M	Gen Reinfts (Tn <sup>e</sup> )	22/1/44	Auth Posting Order NG/1 of 2/1/44
VX88985	"	HEALEY R G	" " "	22/1/44	do do do
NX146097	"	FOX F R	" " "	22/1/44	do do do
TX1158	"	LEWIS G StL	" " "	22/1/44	Auth Posting Order NG/13 of 17/1/44
NX139402	"	WHITEBROOK F C	" " "	24/1/44	Auth Posting Order NG/1 of 2/1/44
VX104156	"	BEATTIE A R	"X" List	28/1/44	ex hospital

### OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX104162	Lieut	HAEBERLE P F	X List	22/1/44	evac to hospital
VX104160	"	ROBINSON E R	X List	25/1/44	" " "
VX51557	T/Capt	DUELL A R	X List	26/1/44	" " "
VX104472	Lieut	MASON H M		24/1/44	Killed in action

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO ..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. .... / ..... / 194 .....

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 29/1/1944 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
T/Lt Col	VX185	SMITH	G F	C O	Yes		
T/Maj	VX361	FLEAY	N L	2 i/c	"		
"	VX57	CARROLL	K A	OC HQ	"		
Capt	VX104144	WHITELAW	S H	OC D	"		
T/Capt	VX104147	ISHERWOOD	R S	Q M	"		
"	VX104148	FLEWELLEN	J A	OC C	"		
"	VX104149	CAMERON	R A	2i/c C	"		
"	NX150345	BUNBURY	C R	Adj't	"		
"	VX85256	SKINNER	F L	2i/c D	"		
"	VX104153	KENNEDY	T M	OC A	"		
Lieut	VX104154	CASEY	H H	14 Pl	"		
"	VX104156	BEATTIE	A R	1 Pl	"		
"	VX48421	KENNEDY	M B	12 Pl	"		
"	VX51657	SMITH	W E	5 Pl	"		
"	VX54066	LAUGHLIN	J	7 Pl	"		
"	VX104163	PINLAYSON	T A	9 Pl	"		
"	VX104151	BUNSELL	A W C	I O	NO	Attending NGF School of Photo Interpretation	14/1/44
"	VX104426	DAWSON	P R	10 Pl	Yes		
"	VX41023	LOOKER	L W A	18 Pl	"		
"	NX68094	BARLING	D R		NO	Det for Leave	3/12/43
"	NX71776	ALDERDICE	C B	4 Pl	Yes		
"	OX37626	POWALL	D L	11 Pl	"		
"	NX67616	McINTOSH	R F	15 Pl	"		
"	VX113767	BROADHEAD	A H	13 Pl	"		
"	NX139402	WHITEBROOK	F C		"		
"	VX88985	HEALEY	R G		"		
"	NX146097	FOX	F R		"		
"	TX1158	LEWIS	C StL		"		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Capt	NX107369	SHARP F L R	15Fdamb	3/1/44	Acting RMO
Chaplain	VX111284	ENGLISH J C	15 Bde	25/5/43	Chaplain

29 JANUARY 1944

Date of Despatch

Truth—7/43.

*[Signature]* Lt Col  
Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div.



Serial No. ....  
 ARMY FORM W.3011 (Books of 100)  
 Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered  
 5 Jan 44  
 19..... Number of sheets  
 attached to this return.....

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) (Unit)

CASUALTY RETURN — OTHER RANKS

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (substantive or otherwise), reversions, trade groupings and relinquishments thereof, transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, absence without leave and rejoining therefrom, particulars of marriage, birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin and any consequential change of postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	Corps (Full title and authorized abbreviations to be used.)	Nature and Date of Casualty	Date	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
V40725	Pte	RORKE	G.H.P. HQ Coy	CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF NOK		NOW 1 CALLENISH RD, BURWOOD, VIC.
VX143588	"	SARSFIELD	C.T.P. B HQ	APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS & CONFIRMATION OF RANK Etc		To Acting TG II (Intell Duties) 24 Nov 43
VX117868	Sgt	BOYLE	L.C. C Coy ✓	DETACHED		to HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde 5 Jan 44 for duty
VX142112	Pte	SMITH	R.F. X A "			" " " " " " 3 Jan 44 " "
V296142	Pte	SHAW	W. C Coy	FIELD PUNISHMENT - COMMITTED TO		Committed to Field Pun-8 Dec 43 To serve sentence of 90 days ishment in the Unit field-punishment awarded by DCM of 30 Nov 43
V290183	"	BANKS	L.F. D " ✓			Committed to Field 6 Dec 43 To serve sentence of 75 days Punishment in the Unit field-punishment awarded by DCM of 30 Nov 43
VX117868	Sgt	BOYLE	L.C. C " ✓	REJOINED UNIT		from det to HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde 30 Dec 43
VX106352	A/Cpl	LANGFORD	D.A. B HQ			" HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde School of Intell Trg Crse No 2
VX120270	Pte	RUSSELL	J.F. B HQ			do do do do 31 Dec 43
VX104491	"	OLIVER	D.S. B HQ			do do do do
VX123365	"	OSMOND	H.S. B HQ			" det to HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde 31 Dec 43
VX143968	"	HAYES	J.W. B HQ			" " " " " " " " 31 Dec 43
VX104462	"	LANGTREE	L.J. HQ Coy			" School of Signals NGF Series No 9 2 Jan 44
VX117873	"	JONES	K.S. HQ "			" " " " " " " " 2 Jan 44
VX104484	Cpl	MCCARTHY	L.N. HQ "	SCHOOLS & COURSES		to NG DD 1 Jan 44 for on avt to attend NGF Trg School Weapon Trg Course No 2 duration 4 weeks commencing 8 Jan 44 Auth NGF G/6030/Sr of 17 Dec 43.

Date 10 January 19 44

Lt Col  
 Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)  
 (Signature of Commandant)

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) (Unit)

15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div.  
 (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ARMY FORM W.3011 (Books of 100)  
 5 Jan 44 Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered  
 19 Number of sheets  
 attached to this return 4

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) (Unit)

CASUALTY RETURN — OTHER RANKS

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (substantive or otherwise), reversions, trade groupings and relinquishments thereof, transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, absence without leave and rejoining therefrom, particulars of marriage, birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin and any consequential change of postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initial	Corps (Full title and authorized abbreviations to be used.)	Nature and Date of Casualty	Date	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to next of kin should be stated.)
VX70717	A/Cpl	FRATHERBY L.C. SCHOOLS & COURSES Contd. School Weapon	D Coy	to NG DD	1 Jan 44	for on mvt to attend NGF Trg course No 2 duration 4 weeks commencing 8 Jan 44 Auth NGFG/6030/SD of 17 Dec 43
VX104519	Cpl	STALEY R.W.	C Coy	do	1 Jan 44	for on mvt to attend NGF Trg course No 1. duration 4 weeks commencing 8 Jan 44 Auth NGFG/6032/SD of 17 Dec 43
VX109130	Cpl	LESLIE J.B. School-Jnr Leaders Crse	X A	to NG DD	10 Jan 44	commencing 11 Jan 44
VX70575	Pte	RACKHAM H.V.	HQ Coy	to 15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Crse	10 Jan 44	duration 6 days
VX120265	"	CAMPBELL R.G.	HQ "	" " " " " "	"	do do do
VX136241	"	HERAUD R.T.	HQ "	" " " " " "	"	do do do
V155742	"	WEISSENFELD L.	HQ "	" " " " " "	"	do do do
NX155925	"	BRINDLEY W.B.	HQ "	" " " " " "	"	do do do
VX144576	"	BROWN W.T.	HQ "	" " " " " "	"	do do do
VX104513	"	STEWART V.G.	HQ "	" " " " " "	"	do do do
V270300	"	CHRISTENSEN A.C.	C "	" " " " " "	"	do do do
V129086	"	WHITE J.J.	B "	" " " " " "	"	do do do
		SICK				
VX113462	"	COFIELD R.C.	B "	evac to 111 CCS	4 Jan 44	
VX147284	"	SMITH W.S.	B "	" " " "	4 Jan 44	
VX138490	"	DONALD W.A.	C "	" " " "	4 Jan 44	
VX104444	"	HAEBICH I.G.	X A	" " 2/5 Pd Amb	6 Jan 44	P U O
VX143682	"	DWYER S.	X A	" " " "	6 Jan 44	P U O
V326204	"	DOHERTY J.J.	X A	" " " "	6 Jan 44	P U O
VX144952	Cpl	MCKAY D.E.	B "	" " " "	6 Jan 44	P U O
VX120998	Pte	OLD J.J.	B "	" " 111 CCS	1 Jan 44	
VX104529	S/Sgt	TRATT E.H.	X A	" " " "	4 Jan 44	
VX122399	Pte	RAPPELL A.W.	X A	" " " "	4 Jan 44	
VX103995	A/Sgt	BARSTOW R.M.	HQ "	" " 2/5 Pd Amb	7 Jan 44	P.U.O

Date 10 Jan 44 19

Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)  
 (Signature of Commander)

Lt Col

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div. (Unit)

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

Serial No. B31/2/44  
 ARMY FORM W.3011 (Books of 100)  
 Date of last A.F. W.3011 rendered  
5 Jan 44 19..... Number of sheets  
 attached to this return..... 4

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) (Unit)

**CASUALTY RETURN — OTHER RANKS**

Detail of casualties to other ranks which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotion (substantive or otherwise), reversions, trade groupings and relinquishments thereof, transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, field punishment, forfeiture of pay, etc. Leave of absence, absence without leave and rejoining therefrom, particulars of marriage, birth or death of children, alteration in next of kin and any consequential change of postal address, transfers to "X" List and any other items affecting a soldier's service.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	Corps (Full title and authorized abbreviations to be used.)	Nature and Date of Casualty	Date	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
VX77536	Pte	BOYCE	H.J. D. Coy ✓	evac to 2/5 Pd Amb	8 Jan 44	P U O
VX144187	"	GOOD	T.W. HQ "	" " " " "	8 Jan 44	Cabarrhal Jaundice
V40288	"	TELFER	W.D. HQ "	" " " " "	8 Jan 44	"
VX117875	"	MOYNAHAN	C.H. C. "	" " " " "	8 Jan 44	P U O
V260587	"	PATTERSON	H.E. ✓ B. "	" " " " "	8 Jan 44	P U O
VX122364	A/Sgt	BARTLEY	G.T. ✓ R. "	" " " " "	8 Jan 44	P U O
VX138492	Pte	CARLISLE	W.H. D. " ✓	" " MDS 15 Pd Amb	3 Jan 44	P U O
VX120989	"	STEPHENS	J.F. D. " ✓	" " " " " "	3 Jan 44	P U O
V255728	"	BOWER	E.C. ✓ B. "	" " 2/9 A G H	2 Jan 44	Ingrowing Toenail
VX70638	"	PEARCE	C.E. X A. "	" " " " "	2 Jan 44	Ear Trouble
VX136402	"	NEWTON	V.S. HQ "	" " MDS 2/5 Pd Amb	9 Jan 44	? Jaundice
VX117871	"	HIRST	R. D. " ✓	" " " " " "	9 Jan 44	P U O
VX104496	"	PATON	H.A. HQ "	" " 47 A C H	4 Jan 44	
VX144304	"	CANN	R.C. D. " ✓	" " 2/9 A G H	5 Jan 44	Ear Trouble
VX104464	"	LOWE	K.W. B I Q	" " 47 A C H	4 Jan 44	
VX143986	"	BARNETT	C.W. X A. Coy ✓	" " 2/5 Pd Amb	10 Jan 44	
VX70719	Cpl	GRANT	A.J.M. D. " ✓	" " " " " "	10 Jan 44	
VX109121	Pte	HANRAHAN	T.J. C. " ✓	" " 15 Pd Amb	20 Dec 43	ex det to HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde
VX143982	"	EGAN	J.F. B I Q	" " hospital	16 Dec 43	from NGDD whilst in transit
				to rejoin unit from HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)		
VX113468	"	WHITE	L.G. D. Coy ✓	Evac to 2/5 Pd Amb	10 Jan 44	P U O
		<u>TAKEN ON STRENGTH</u>				
VX122393	Pte	SHERWILL	W.N. C Coy ✓	from X list	6 Jan 44	ex 111 CCS
VX104496	"	PATON	H.A. HQ "	" " " " "	2 Jan 44	ex hospital via 113 Con Depot
VX143553	"	PREEN	A.J. D. " ✓	" " " " "	31 Dec 43	" " " " " "
VX143984	"	MCDONALD	W.E. B. " ✓	" " " " "	9 Jan 44	" 111 CCS

Date 10 January 1944

*[Signature]* Lt Col  
 Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)  
 (Unit)

15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div  
 (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)



24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) (Unit)

CASUALTY RETURN — OTHER RANKS

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Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	Corps (Full title and authorized abbreviations to be used.)	Nature and Date of Casualty	Date	Remarks. (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for communication to relatives should be stated.)
VX120998	Pte	OLD	J.J. ✓ B Coy	from X list	9 Jan 44	ex 111 CCS
VX113462	"	COFIELD	R.C. ✓ B "	" " "	9 Jan 44	" " "
VX147284	"	SMITH	W.S. ✓ B "	" " "	9 Jan 44	" " "
VX104529	s/sgt	THATT	E.H. ✗ A "	" " "	9 Jan 44	" " "
VX122399	Pte	RAPPELL	A.W. ✗ A "	" " "	9 Jan 44	" " "
VX104465	Cpl	MACKEY	S.A. ✓ C "	" " "	6 Jan 44	ex hospital via NGDD
VX109147	Pte	STEPHENSON	L. ✓ D "	" " "	4 Jan 44	" " " "
VX106341	A/Sgt	SPENDLOVE	H.J. ✗ A "	" " "	6 Jan 44	" " " "
		<u>TRANSFER IN</u>				
VX104427	Pte	DEAN	A.F.T. HQ Coy	from HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde	9 Jan 44	
		<u>TRANSFER OUT</u>				
V155619	"	RYAN	P. HQ "	to HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde	25 May 43	

Date 10 January 19 44

*[Signature]*  
 Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (Lt Col)  
 (Signature of Commandant)

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) (Unit)  
 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 7 Aust Div  
 (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving)



21  
A P P X

G

CO's REPORT FOR MONTH OF JAN 441 GENERAL

On 1 JAN Unit moved by a/c from NADZAB to DUMPU where it came under direct command 7 Aust Div. Relief of 2/25 Aust Inf Bn was effected that day. Units responsibility was the defence of the foot hills and flats adjoining the western end of the DUMPU airstrip. It was forward of this area where the enemy pushed back 7 Aust Div outposts in December 43.

Vigorous patrolling began and met with approval of 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) who arrived on 5th. Unit patrols made contact with the enemy from OROGUMA 2, to CAMERONS KNOLL on the high ground overlooking the JAP L of C in SAIPA Area. A B Coy patrol moved through 2/6 (Cav) Commando unit on 5500 feature and contacted 2/2 Pnr elements on the 18 Bde front.

During the month, the unit sent out 64 patrols, contact with the enemy being made on 7 occasions.

In addition 106 routine patrols of  $\frac{1}{2}$  day duration took place. The highlight of the months activity was the capture of CAMERONS KNOLL by A Coy on 24th.

Making the best use of a razor back which ran into a comparatively broad area at the top, the enemy had dug his usual trench system, defended forward and to the rear with fox holes along the spurs leading to the position.

The approach to the position was the most precipitous in the units experience.

In spite of a pounding by 500 25pdr shells the enemy resisted stubbornly and the position was only captured after two hours heavy fighting at the cost of 6 killed and 7 wounded.

After its capture, D Coy relieved A Coy and patrolled vigorously towards the enemy L of C BOGADJIM - SHAGGY RIDGE.

An OP was established overlooking this L of C and arty fire directed onto the road.

Our troops used the evacuated JAP position on CAMERONS KNOLL as a patrol base.

2 BHQ

Remained in 2/25 Bn site until 16 JAN when it moved forward to a central position in the Bn area.

On 15 JAN 3 MIKES strafed the Bn HQ Area, killing 1 OR and wounding 1 in the Q Store area.

CO moved forward for A Coy attack and on consolidation on CAMERONS KNOLL was relieved by Major FLEAY.

3 HQ Coy

Moved with BHQ.

Sigs, MMGs and Mortars were detached to Coys.

Pioneer pl made a rope crossing of the RAMU and later were Brigaded for the Jeep road through our area to KESAWAI. Tank A/t Pl patrolled as infantrymen under command A Coy at end of month.

4 A Coy

Left forward Coy with task of defence of EVAPIA RIVER Area until 15 JAN when it moved to outpost position on 5800 feature to relieve C Coy.

Prior to this move, they had patrolled actively forward as far as OROGUMA where contact was made by Lieut ANDERSON'S patrol. Although fired on at point blank range, NO casualties were suffered. Coy moved forward to DESERTED VILLAGE and patrolled actively forward. To distract the enemy's attention from pending 18 Bde operation in SHAGGY RIDGE Area, A Coy were ordered to demonstrate by fire against CAMERON'S KNOLL on 21 JAN.

9 Pl under Sgt McLENNAN carried out the feint, but a Bren Gunner was wounded during the action.

In conjunction with 18 Bde attack, a raid on CAMERON'S KNOLL had been ordered for 24 JAN.

The unit worked like Trojans carrying stores, amn and supplies forward for the attack. In 9 days 527 white man loads had been staged forward over a most difficult L of C.

The attack began after 150rds of 25 pdr HE. The initial plan was for a two pronged advance, 8 pl (Sgt Spendlove) to encircle and capture the position from the left, whilst 9 Pl kept their heads down.

After receiving two wounded, the outflanking pl returned to the track reporting the left flank to be too well covered for a successful entry. 8 Pl (Sgt Spendlove) on the only track into the position then pushed forward to within grenade range but the slopes were too steep and high to enable grenades to be thrown into the position. The attack was repulsed by the Japs rolling grenades onto the attackers.

The Coy then withdrew to a safe distance and the artillery concentrated a further 350rds onto the position.

8 pl led the next attempt, with 9 pl making a flanking move to scale the cliffs on the right of the axis of advance.

The remainder in reserve on the track. After a bad shakingup when they moved too close to their arty and lost two wounded by our own shells, 8 pl pushed on under the determined leadership of Sgt Spendlove.

They captured the lower portion of the spur after a two hour fire fight. 9 pl (Lieut MASON) encircling to the right west, climbed the cliffs, but the 4 leading men including Lieut MASON, a reinf't officer who had taken over the pl that afternoon, had emerged into the enemy machine gun position which was firing down the spur onto 8 pl.

The LMGs remained silent until the four stood up and proceeded to move up the spur. Then at point blank range, Lieut MASON, Cpl DAVIS and Pte SARGOOD were killed. Pte ATKINS was forced to retire after giving covering fire in an effort to get out Cpl DAVIS who was at first wounded. 9 pl were forced to give up the attempt from the right flank.

8 pl shot their way up the spur, moving forward firing Brens and OSMGs from the hip. The coy consolidated for the night but were all in next day and only assayed local patrolling.

They lost six killed and 7 wounded.

A pl position was discovered at the top of CAMERON'S KNOLL. As usual it was extremely well dug in, with comn trenches, dugouts, sleeping quarters and a 40ft lookout built by kanakas overlooking the RAMU VALLEY. Every movement over kunai, or in clearings below, was plainly visible.

Patrols protected an arty OP which was made on a ridge overlooking the main JAP L of C BOGADJIM - SHAGGY RIDGE.

~~The night light of the enemy was seen in the distance. The enemy was seen to be moving in the direction of the main JAP L of C BOGADJIM - SHAGGY RIDGE.~~

~~Kainx~~

5 B Coy

Commencing 4 JAN, a 6 day patrol under Capt DUELL was successful in moving through the MENE RIVER GORGE to feature 5500 where it contacted 2/6 (Cav) Commando Sqn. From there it moved toward the SHAGGY RIDGE area to contact 2/2 Pioneer Bn. Upon return, the patrol voted the country the most difficult over which it had operated, viz BUANG RIVER Area.

On 12 JAN Coy moved to right rear Coy on THOMSONS KNOLL, covering the gap between D Coy fwd and the left flank of 28/59 Bn.

On same date 12 pl patrol moved to KOROPA for protection of flank of 57/60 Bn projected attack in OROGUNA Area.

Later in the month the coy came under command, ~~at first~~ Capt CAMERON and were stationed in the KESAWAI Area as flank guards. In the meantime, with the rest of the Bn, the coy "carried" supplies for A Coy forward.

6 C Coy

On 1 JAN, took over positions from 2/25 Bn on the swampy ground near the RAMU RIVER. NO trenches could be dug, but built up defences of logs and mud kept the men out of the swamp.

On 5 JAN C Coy went forward to 5800 feature where 2/31 Bn used to employ 3 day coy patrols.

The Coy established two positions to guard all tracks in the area, and proceeded to patrol to contact the enemy. Although traces, incl documents were everywhere in evidence, it was NOT until 10 JAN that Capt CAMERON contacted the enemy on the lower slopes of the feature later known as CAMERON'S KNOLL. Although fired on at point blank range, the patrol escaped without loss.

All other patrols failed to contact the enemy, but gave valuable information as to the extent of the enemy occupation of the area.

One pl remained behind on L of C duties and one section reinforced A Coy for the attack on CAMERON'S KNOLL. Cpl GOODWIN was killed in the action.

Remainder of the month was spent in carrying rations to A Coy.

7 D Coy

Relieved a coy of the 2/25 Bn on the flatground between the foothills and the RAMU River. 14 ORs proceeded to OROGUNA and 5800 feature with 2/14 Bn patrols. Took part in a clash at OROGUNA and were commended by the OC Coy 2/14 Bn for coolness under fire.

On 3 JAN coy moved to Landslide Hill, on the high ground overlooking the EVAPIA RIVER.

Until 29 JAN the coy improved the defensive positions and carried supplies to A Coy, besides sending local patrols up the EVAPIA RIVER. On 29 JAN relief of A Coy was complete at CAMERON'S KNOLL.

D Coy continued with aggressive patrolling activities, contacting the enemy in a fire fight on that day. Enemy withdrew and D Coy occupied his position. Arty was used against the next enemy position contacted, but it was difficult to pinpoint his positions in the dense country.

8 Morale

Morale was high throughout the month. A COY's performance in capturing CAMERON'S KNOLL was a creditable one.

9 Health

See RMO's report

Dengue took a heavy toll of the unit, 150 cases, but at the end of the month 80 cases had returned for duty.

Malaria continued to be negligible, proving that strict malarial discipline can prevent it.

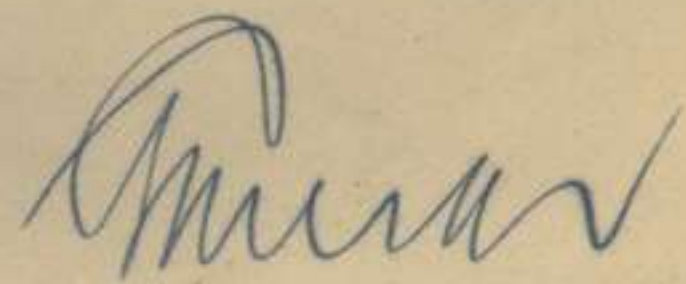
10 Reinforcements

During the month 8 reinf officers joined the unit. These were sent forward for battle experience before being posted to platoons.

The unit now has few officers who have NOT been under actual enemy fire, or at least in patrol contact.

No reinf of ORs has been received.

The units strength at end of JAN was 280 offr 509 ORs.



Lt Col

(G F SMITH)

Comd 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

PATROLS CARRIED OUT DURING A COY OPERATIONS 24 - 29 Jan 44.

Ref Map. AMUBA 1 : 25000 2nd Edition.

- 21 Jan 9 pl and recce gp. To recce Jap posn SPENDLOVE SPUR 556699 and locate posn of Jap weapons. Troops moved from CAMP 3 to broken rifle posn. 2 secs moved to right flank - other sec and recce group moved along track. Fwd scout was climbing onto SPENDLOVE SPUR when Jap LMG barrel and magazine seen at 8 yds covering the track. Withdraw to prepare plane xxx to draw enemy fire. Enemy sniper opened fire wounding Bren gunner in right forearm. Bren gunner knocked 2 other men into re-entrant. Section was forced to leave Bren gun with 4 mags and 2 in mortar with 6 bombs. Jap LMG opened fire and as Japs covered spur and both reentrants from above section forced to move down spur to cover. Several bursts of Owen were fired, the Japs replying with an LMG. Patrol then returned to CAMP 3. Sign line was laid to broken rifle posn.
- 25 Jan Patrol Comd Lieut FOX.  
9 pl patrolled from 556699 WEST down SPENDLOVE SPUR. Found deserted Jap def posns at 554699 and good O.P. overlooking re-entrant and spur to NORTH.
- 26 Jan 7 pl and one det 4 pl strength 2 Offrs 23 ORs patrolled EAST from 556699 to establish an arty O.P. overlooking MINDJIM River. They could not find an O.P. but found very strong deserted Jap def posns sufficient for one Coy at 560699 (CAMERONS KNOLL.) Moved 1000yds further EAST to gardens unable establish Arty O.P. Saw fresh footprints one Jap leading WEST from vicinity gardens to Jap posn NMS.  
Patrol Comd Lieut ALDERDICE.
- 27 Jan Patrol Comd Lieut ALDERDICE.  
9 pl and one det 4 pl out 270955L in 271545L.  
Object to establish arty O.P. overlooking MINDJIM River and seach village 563701.  
Patrol reached 567705 where it was found that leaves had been recently used for seats. Across reentrant was found a place where approx 4 japs had slept and cooked one meal. Fresh footprints of one Jap were seen leading SE along a small pad. At this stage, one of 4 japs who were following our patrol called out to the rear section. Our Bren opened on the japs wounding one. The Japs ran back down the spur but were not followed in case it was a trap to lead our patrol into an ambush. As there was a strong possibility of a Jap posn on GOODWIN SPUR, the patrol moved SOUTH off the spur up which they had been moving onto the next EAST - WEST spur. one Jap appeared on the spur. He was fired on by an Owen gun, but escaped NORTH over the spur. Owing to the possibility of further Japs coming down on the patrol from higher up the spur, it was decided to return to CAMERONS KNOLL. Taking direction by compass, we scrubbed S.W. down a spur to McLENNANS Ck. then climbed onto the main track at approx 564799 returning CAMERONS KNOLL at 271545L. The japs seen appeared to be in good condition. The first 4 seen had one LMG and 3 rifles. The other Jap seen had a rifle. Japs were not wearing equipment.
- 27 Jan 7 pl patrol strength. 1 Offr 15 ORs out 271000L in 27 1715L.  
Patrol Comd Lieut LACHLAN.  
Object to establish arty O.P. overlooking MINDJIM River.  
Patrol reached approx 572703 and est. O.P. Arty registered vic. SAIPA 2. Small pad found at 568699 leading NORTH footprints of one Jap pointing SOUTH - these footprints probably made by same Jap as those seen by 9 pl patrol at 567705.  
Patrol returned CAMERONS KNOLL 271715L. NMS.
- 28 Jan 8 pl and one det 4 pl out approx 280900L. in 281720L.  
~~xxxxxxx~~ Patrol Comd Lieut ALDERDICE.  
Object - Move EAST to contact 18 Bde.  
Moved EAST to 567698 then along pad SOUTH to 568690. This pad continued to the SOLU River. The patrol returned to 567698 then continued to approx 581690 where an excellent lookout was found overlooking RAMU Valley to the SOUTH. The airstrips could not be

seen but all planes arriving and leaving could be seen. The lookout was under a lean to with a seat from which to observe and a slit trench 6 ft long in the floor. In the 200 yds past the O.P. the track dipped 150 ft then rose again to the same level. The track down into the dip from the O.P. was cleared on both sides and a pillbox on the far side covered the track. On the SOUTH side of this ridge is a sheer drop to the SOLU River and is impassable. The NORTH side is steep but it would be possible to move around through the timber. In the gully between the two posns there were two huts. A fire was burning talking was heard and tins rattling. This was presumed to be a cookhouse. 2 japs werexseen to move from the cookhouse up to the Jap posn. In the Jap posn further fire lanes were cut covering the track from the O.P. From the posn of the cookhouse it is considered that the main defs of the posn were covering an attack from the EAST. The patrol returned to CAMERONS KNOLL at 281720L.

Signed. G OUTHRED  
Pte.  
"I" Section.

2 Feb 44



REPORT ON ATTACK BY A COY RESULTING IN CAPTURE OF  
SPENDLOVE SPUR. 556699 - 24 Jan 44

Ref Map AMUBA 1 : 25000 2nd Edition.

At 0630hrs 24 Jan 44 the Coy moved out from Camp 3 - 553689 and took up a posn vic. Broken Rifle posn 555696 ready to move fwd after the arty concentration on SPENDLOVE SPUR. From 0955 to 1025hrs, arty laid concentration on spur. Observation by fwd tps showed that arty was falling to right of Jap posn but were unable to get word to the arty until concentration was over.

At commencement of arty 7 pl moved to the left flank to attack and capture the posn from a spur on the left. 8 pl was to give covering fire from the main track whilst 7 pl attacked. 8 pl moved up the track during the arty fire, but held their fire, awaiting further arty fire onto the Jap posn.

At 1110hrs 7 pl on the left flank reached the Jap held spur. 5 men had climbed onto the spur when Cpl [redacted] saw one Jap standing on the track approx 10 yds forward of him. He put a burst into this Jap and a Jap LMG and a sniper opened up on the men on the track. Our Bren gunner fired in the Jap LMG which ceased firing and two own gunners fired on the sniper in a tree. A Jap threw a grenade which slightly wounded two men. In all 6 Japs were seen in the posn, none of whom were wearing equipment.

As the Jap fire became too heavy 7 pl was ordered to withdraw to the SOUTH from the spur. The Bren gunner covered the withdrawal of the four men on the spur and the pl withdrew still under Jap LMG and rifle fire. Jap cas. one known killed. 2 possibly killed, Own. 3 slightly wounded by shrapnel.

It was found that the timber was so thick that walkie talkies were useless, even over a distance of less than 200 yds. For this reason no comn was available with 7 pl, so the pl returned to their start point on the main track.

At 1115hrs. just after the 7 pl beneath-an-almost-perpendicular ~~9-xx xxk~~ attack, 8 pl moved into thinner timber beneath an almost perpendicular bank 50 ft below Jap held spur. 2 Brens and 2 Owens opened up on Japs drawing heavy fire, including grenades from the Jap posn.

It was decided that further arty shelling was required to enable capture of the posn. However as there was no comn with 7 pl the arty was held up. Cpl GOODWIN, who said he knew where 7 pl was situated went as a runner from Comd post to contact Pl. He did not contact Pl and was not found until 26 Jan when it was found that he had crossed the main Jap track and after firing one mag of Owen from with 25 yds of the top of the posn, had been killed.

As Cpl GOODWIN had not returned, Sgt McLENNAN moved out later to contact 7 pl. He was found on 25 Jan having also crossed the main Jap spur and had been killed whilst moving NORTH down the side of the spur.

Soon afterwards Cpl CARNEY set out with battle phone and cable to contact 7 pl. However after about 10 mins Cpl ARNER reported to the Comd post that 7 pl was back on the main track. A runner was sent and contacted Cpl CARNEY as he was climbing the side of the spur.

As the whereabouts was now known of the missing pl, it was decided to withdraw and allow a further concentration of arty to be made.

Cpl CARNEY moved fwd with a battle phone to attempt to direct the arty onto the Jap posn. He did a very good job and although it was impossible to see the actual Jap posn whilst the arty was firing, it was accurate enough to score a number of direct hits on the posn. The arty fired from 1525 to 1600 hrs. Towards the end of the shelling 8 pl commenced to move fwd. However at that moment, one of the last of the arty shells fell much shorter than the rest, wounding two of our men and giving xx a number of men a severe shaking.

A smoke screen was then laid in front of the Jap posn by means of 2 in mortar. The screen was very good, but the wind blew it back on our own troops, holding up the advance until it cleared. 8 pl then advanced with 9 pl at rear in support. 8 pl again reached a posn at the edge of thinner timber and took up posns behind a small bank. For 5 minutes they poured heavy small arms fire from all pl weapons into the Jap posn. There was no answering fire, so one section leader

L/Cpl MATCALF and the Pl Comd Sgt SPENDLOVE attempted to move fwd onto the spur. L/Cpl MATCALF was 5 yds from the top of the spur when he was killed by a sniper on the spur. Sgt SPENDLOVE lost his rifle but got back to the pl posn and reported to the Coy Comd. He suggested that a pl be sent to the right flank to cover the right flank and rear of 8 pl.

The Coy Comd ordered 9 pl to move up a small spur on the right flank. 8 pl gave 9 pl covering fire as they moved fwd. They advanced up a very steep grade 4 men getting onto the main spur. The Japs opened on them from within 5 yds with LMGs and rifles. It is thought that the japs were using 3 LMGs at this stage. Our troops replied with a Bren and 2 Owens inflicting a number of casualties. The enemy fire became very strong, 3 of the 4 men on the spur were killed, the fourth being forced to go over the edge. 2 other men of the pl attempted to drag one of the dead men off the top of the spur but on each attempt were fired on by LMG and were forced to withdraw.

The Pl then returned to the main track.

As 8 pl received no answering fire when covering 9 pl attack, they again moved forward to the main spur. This time they gained the spur without opposition.

7 pl moved in on the left flank and also reached the main spur. They then moved EAST up the spur through 8 pl and took up a posn 100 yds along the spur just above the track junc. 9 pl moved onto the spur on the left to give left flank protection. These were the dispositions for the night 24/25 Jan.

Just before last light, 3 men from 8 pl moved fwd 10 yds past the FDLs to where 3 men of 9 pl had been killed. Just as they reached our men, a Jap booby trap was sprung wounding 2 men.

Our casualties for the day were 6 killed 7 wounded. Known enemy casualties 7 killed.

The troops throughout did a splendid job, extreme courage being in evidence at all times. The posn captured had extremely good natural defences. The work of the troops was an excellent job, very well done.

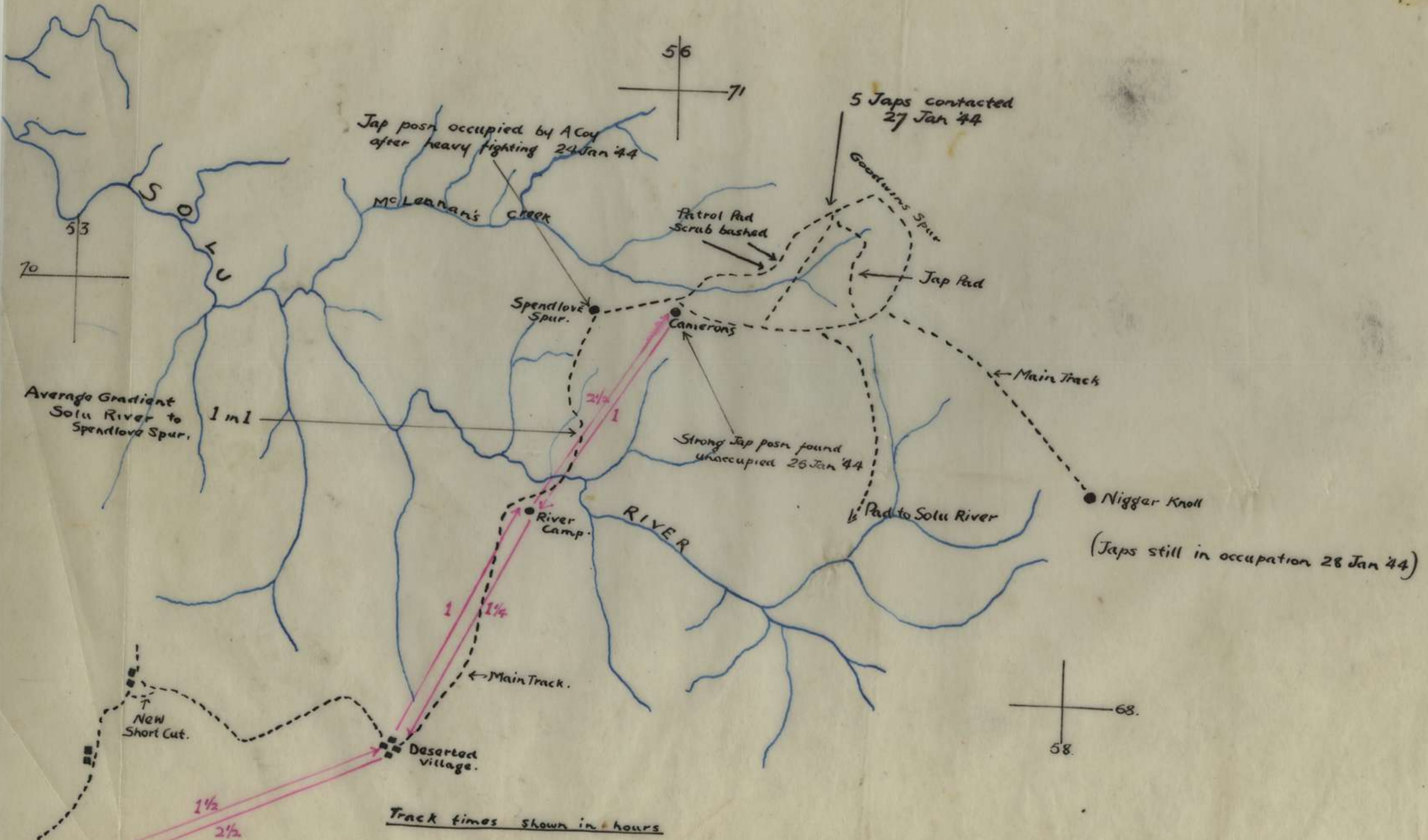
G. OUTHRED.

Pte.

"I" Sec.

3 Feb 44

# Trace Showing Tracks Used by A Coy 17-30



To be Super. imposed on Amuba 1/25000 2nd Edition

Time 1500 hrs.  
Date 2 Feb 44

*D. Olive*  
1. Sec. 24 Aust. Inf. Bn.





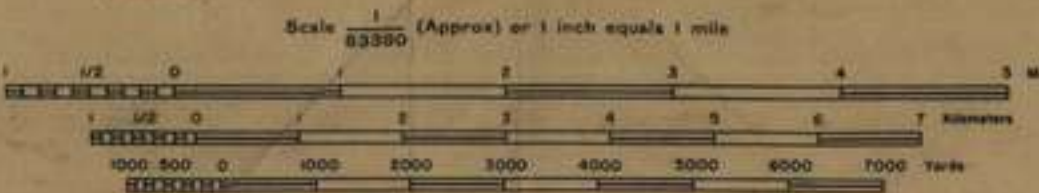
12000L ENEMY  
CONTACTED IN JUNGLE  
ZONE BY 4 PLATOON  
1ST AVIATION  
ENEMY HAD 1MMG 2MPG and RIFLES  
CAS ENEMY UNKNOWN OWNERS NIL

6 JAN - 4 ORG COV  
ATT TO 3/4 IN HQ  
PATROL CONTACTED  
ENEMY OF 2-3  
OWN NIL ENEMY  
UNKNOWN

Prepared under the direction of the Chief Engineer, USAFFE, by  
Base Map Plan, USAFFE, September 1942.  
Compiled from 100-meter photographs, missions  
56-X and 57-X Feb 1943, 78-X Mar 1943, 146-Z May 1943, 161-Z and  
189-Z June 1943, and 193-Y July 1943  
by the Photo Sec. 1st Air Force, Lt. G. A. A. A. A.  
Placements from vertical and oblique photographs, using triangulation  
control and information from ANGAU, Aust LHQ, Ad. LHQ and 422.  
Elevations for features determined by Fairchild Stereo-compassing  
and information from Aust LHQ.  
Data based on aerial furnished by AD Survey, HCP, Feb and Mar 1943  
and from Aust OI Co.  
Lambert conical orthographic projection.  
CAUTION:  
This map was produced from aerial photographs. Due to  
lack of accurate ground control, distances scaled on this  
map may be at variance with actual ground distances.  
NGP OIO 3899 5656

LEGEND

Trails	---
Trails, probable	- - - -
Streams, intermittent	- - - -
Swamps	~~~~~
Jungle	
Plantations	
Grassland	
Farm lines, interval approx 100 ft.	



"WARNING: FORM LINES ONLY, NOT CONTOURS"  
All Elevations are Approximate

NOTE: OTHERS USING THIS MAP WILL HAVE EXCESS CONTOURS AND  
ELEVATIONS WHICH WILL BE IN ERROR. CHECK WITH  
THE CHIEF ENGINEER, USAFFE, APO SO.



Approximate mean declination 1943  
Annual magnetic increase 3'

INDEX TO SHEETS

MUSAK	BAGASIN	BOGADJIM
OBULU	URIGINA	MT KUBARI
TORO	MT OTTO	DUMPU

1000 METER MODIFIED BRITISH GRID SYSTEM  
W. G. 1 EQUATORIAL ZONE  
Origin of grid: Lat Equator-Ling (0°) whose coordinates  
are X: 3,000,000 and Y: 3,000,000  
To give the coordinates on a point use only target figures  
on the grid lines, and add estimated tenths of subdivisions.  
The actual numbers at the corners are the full coordinates  
referred to the origin of the grid zone.  
Nearest similar reference on this grid is 300 km distant.  
ALWAYS indicate grid letter in giving a reference on  
this grid.

URIGINA  
5530 - E14520/15X20

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID  
EQUATORIAL ZONE

# NEW GUINEA KOBEN

WARNING: GRID ON THIS MAP DOES NOT AGREE WITH  
THAT SHOWN ON URIGINA 3656 AND MT. OTTO 3657  
1 INCH TO 1 MILE PROVISIONAL SERIES

REFER TO THIS MAP AS  
KOBEN 3549 1:25000 SERIES

*Coy. Disband 1944  
JAN. 44*



Bridge	—
Motor Road	—
Imp. Track	—
Foot Track	—
Reported Track	—
Telegraph Line	—
Airfield	—
Sea Plane Base	—
Cemetery	—
Mission Station	—
Spot Height	—
Grasslands	—

**CONTROL:** Astronomical Fixation at Dumpu  
Lat. 05°50'34.4" Long. 145°44'29.55"  
Triangulation and Traverse  
by 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF

**PROJECTION:** Lambert Conical Orthomorphic

**AIR PHOTOGRAPHY:** 82x 142x 148z

**MISSIONS:** 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF

**COMPILATION and DRAWING:** 2/1 Aust Army Topo Survey Coy

**REPRODUCTION:** 2/1 Aust Army Topo Survey Coy

LOCALITY DIAGRAM

MUSAK	SAGASIN	BOGADJIN
OBULU	URIGINA	MT. KUBARI
TORO	MT. OTTO	DUMPU



TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET  
AND AN INDICATION OF THE QUALITY OF THE DATA  
OF THE CONTROL AND OF THE QUALITY OF THE DATA  
OF THE CONTROL AND OF THE QUALITY OF THE DATA  
OF THE CONTROL AND OF THE QUALITY OF THE DATA

GRID REFERENCE	QUALITY OF DATA
43	68
44	69
45	70
46	71
47	72
48	73
49	74
50	75
51	76
52	77
53	78
54	79
55	80
56	81
57	82
58	83
59	84
60	85
61	86
62	87
63	88
64	89
65	90
66	91
67	92
68	93
69	94
70	95
71	96
72	97
73	98
74	99
75	100

Officers using this map are requested to make any necessary additions or amendments on the map itself and forward to A.D. Survey H.Q. NGF

NOTE Form Lines are intended to indicate shape of hill features and should not be taken as contours. Heights are only approximate.

Ref.

Trig. Stations and altitude	First Class	▲ 500'
	Second	▲ 450'
	Third	▲ 400'
	Fourth	▲ 350'
Astronomical Station		▲ 200'
Native Garden		● 100'
Native Village		● 100'
Unidentified Native Village		● 100'
Buildings		□
River or perennial Stream		—
Non perennial Stream		—
Fathom Line		—

Swamp	—
Spring Well, Waterhole	—
Mangroves	—
Dense Jungle Forest	—
Forest	—
Scattered Timber	—
Plantation	—
Secondary Growth	—
Contours - Form Lines	—
Ridges	—
Clefts	—

17 DEC 1943

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID  
EQUATORIAL ZONE

COY.  
DISPOSITIVE  
JAN. 44

# NEW GUINEA EVAPIA RIVER

WARNING: GRID ON THIS MAP DOES NOT AGREE WITH GRID  
SHOWN ON MT. OTTO 3657 AND DUMPU 3655  
1 INCH TO 1 MILE PROVISIONAL SERIES.

REFER TO THIS MAP AS  
EVAPIA RIVER 3685 1:25,000 SERIES



CONTROL: Triangulation and Astronomical Fixation at Dumpu Lat. 05° 50' 34.4" Long. 145° 44' 29.55" by 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF

PROJECTION: Lambert Conical Orthomorphic

AIR PHOTOGRAPHY: 8th. Photo Squadron Fifth Air Force

MISSIONS: 78x 142z 167z 262y 245y

COMPILATION and DRAWING: 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF with the aid of Air Photographs and Intelligence Reports.

REPRODUCTION: 2/1 Aust Army Topo Survey Coy

*Bridge* (solid line with arches)

*Motor Road* (dashed line with cross-ticks)

*Jeep Track* (dashed line with cross-ticks)

*Foot Track* (dashed line)

*Reported Track* (dashed line with cross-ticks)

*Telegraph Line* (dashed line with cross-ticks)

*Airfield* (rectangle with cross-ticks)

*Sea Plane Base* (rectangle with cross-ticks)

*Cemetery* (rectangle with cross-ticks)

*Mission Station* (rectangle with cross-ticks)

*Spot Height* (circle with cross-ticks)

*Grasslands* (rectangle with cross-ticks)



NOTE: This map was produced from Aerial Photographs. Due to lack of accurate ground control, distances and heights on this map may be at variance with actual ground distances.

The blue figures within the borders of this map are for artillery purposes and denote corrections in minutes and seconds of mean time. There is no convergence in this zone.

Officers using this map are requested to make any necessary additions or amendments on the map itself and forward to A. D. Survey H. Q. N. G. F.

TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET...  
POINT WAIMERIBA (VILLAGE)

Swamp (indicated in blue)

Spring Well, Waterhole

Mangroves

Dense Jungle Forest

Forest

Scattered Timber

Plantation (under coconut)

Secondary Growth

Contours - Form Lines (indicated in blue)

Ridges

Cliffs

Ref.

Trig. Stations and altitude	First Class	▲ 900'
	Second	▲ 450'
	Third	○ 225'
	Fourth	○ 112.5'
Astronomical Station		
Native Garden		
Native Village		
Unidentified Native Village		
Buildings		
River or perennial Stream		
Non perennial Stream		
Fathom Line		

20 JAN 1944

APPY

H



1 Feb 44

Q M's REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

1. INTRODUCTION. On 1 Jan 44 the Unit moved by plane from NADZAB to DUMPU in the RAMU Valley. The movement was orderly, plane tables only had to be finalised, and as a result there was no loss of stores or eqpt during the move. Coy dispositions on arrival were BHQ and H Q Coy, B and C Coys approx 4 miles along the RAMU Valley from the airstrip. A and D Coys forward of jeep head. At a later stage C Coy was given patrolling tasks N E of KASAWAI and a base was established approx 4 miles N E of KASAWAI named CASEYS. C Coy were subsequently relieved by A Coy who staged an attack on a posn forward of CASEYS which protected the Jap road at SAIPA 2. This was successful and A Coy was withdrawn and the task of protective patrolling and exploitation to the Jap road was given to D Coy.
2. SUPPLY Supplies for the troops not engaged in tasks in the forward area, were transported direct to the coys by jeep. For fwd troops all supplies were brought to jeep head, thence by native labour through KESAWAI to the coy area at CASEYS. The duration of the carry is 6 hours forward and 3 hours back. Due to the nature of the country ANGAU would only allow a native to carry a load every second day. The 45 natives allotted for the purpose were sufficient, but on 17 JAN they had to be moved forward with A Coy for use during operations. The remainder of the bn under comd, had to be used to carry rations for the forward troops. While the relief of A Coy was taking place the number available for carrying parties was reduced to approx 100. The last few days of the month it was possible to get supplies forward to KESAWAI by jeep which shortened the carry by approx  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The spirit of the troops carrying the supplies is worthy of comment. There was no complaint at the necessity for the carry, as they apparently realised that it was their own comrades they were supplying. During the period 16-31 JAN (both inclusive) a total of 757 loads weighing in all 17845 lbs were carried forward by the members of the unit to CASEYS. The L of C extends from CASEYS to Deserted Village  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs, to CAMERONS  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The carry forward of CASEYS is done by native labour based at Deserted Village.
3. RATIONS The new operational rations were used for the first time by members of the unit after arrival in the valley. General opinion is that it is superior to the old type because of the inclusion of more sugar, chocolate and more palatable biscuits and meat, extra tea tablets. The forward coys (A & D) have used them continuously for more than a fortnight and although variation of diet is not possible, the ration supplies sufficient bulk and food value. A new type of emergency ration. Again sweets predominate because of their energy value and the inclusion of chocolate and a more palatable fruit block made considerable improvement. All items in the SWP scale are being received. Fresh bread daily replaces biscuits and twice weekly issues of fresh meat and butter are received.
4. EXPENSE STORES Sufficient stocks are held to enable full scale issue. A new fluid is now supplied for use against mites. Applied to the clothing it prevents the mite biting and thereby gives protection against scrub typhus.

- 5 WARLIKE STORES Unit deficiencies were made good by the transfer of a number of items from 2/25 Aust Inf Bn prior to their moving out. Other items have been supplied by 7 Aust Div and release vouchers are held for the majority of items required to bring holdings up to a complete W E. Items forwarded to workshops are speedily repaired and returned. Where replacement certificates are issued Ordnance has been able to issue without delay.
- 6 STORES GENERALLY Good supplies are held by ADOS, and on arrival it was possible to obtain items of equipment which had been in short supply at NADZAB.
- 7 MAIL Since the units arrival in the area the deliveries of incoming mail have been poor. The average has been two light deliveries per week which does NOT compare favourably with previous service.
- 8 TRANSPORT The two jeeps on charge to the unit at NADZAB were transferred to area comd. On arrival at DUMPU 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) allotted one jeep and trailer on loan to the unit. The amount of work to be done places a strain on the one vehicle and as a result of breakdowns it has spent six days of the month in workshops for repair. Supplies of POL are plentiful.
- 9 CANTEEN Stocks during the month were low, but sufficient should be available early in FEB. As an indication of the adequate supply from service channels of all types of requirements of members, there was very little ordered when canteen requisitions were called for.
- 10 COMFORTS FUND The months distribution for each man includes 13 PKs, 2 ozs tobacco, 3 pkts papers, toilet and common soap and writing material.
- 11 MALARIA CONTROL This area is highly malarious, but a large amount of control work has been carried out, and is still continuing.. Adequate stocks of malarial are available for spraying purposes. Personal protection measures employed continue to keep the number of malaria cases at a low level. Dengue would appear to be more prevalent, so orders were given for the use of mosquito lotion during the hours of daylight. Adequate stocks are available for all purposes.
- 12 HYGIENE AND SANITATION Normal sickness other than fever is almost negligible.
- 13 AMENITIES Once weekly pictures are shown at various places for the benefit of troops within Jeep head. A supply of books received from AAES enabled a distribution of 30 per coy to be made.



Capt  
QM 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

APPY

HI

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4 Feb 44

REPORT SIGNAL OPERATIONS FOR MONTH JANUARY 1944GENERAL.

The Bn moved from NADZAB area 1 Jan by plane to DUMPY where it took over from 2/25 Bn.

HANDING OVER.

The change over was done in approx 6 hrs. All eqpt which was then in use was exchanged, the whole movement was done quite satisfactorily. Signal diagram was handed over but no Route Plan which caused extensive recce of all lines in the area. The Signal Office which was located on the top of a hill was a great disadvantage. NO line system had been adopted and difficulty was found in the maintenance. Comns in this area were quite satisfactory although great difficulty was encountered in handling of traffic in the limited space of the Office. Improvements were made allowing a little more room.

On 3 Jan 44 C Coy moved to 5800 feature and established a Firm Base. W/T 208 was established and R 5 comns were maintained up to 5 Jan 44 when L/T (Amer 103) was laid. This line was laid by night. 4 sigs plus a carrying party of 18 ORs to assist. Up till 0200hrs laying was easy in the moonlight but after that it was impossible to move. They remained stationary until 0600hrs then moved fwd to finish the line at approx 1300hrs. This being done, comns were R 5.

A forward office was set up at EVAPIA River with S/B 6 line and ~~xxx~~ fullerphone fwd and rear. This Office remained stationary until the move of Bn HQ which then made it unnecessary. The necessary lines had to be laid to dispense with this board.

The movement of B H Q took place on 17 Jan. this move enabled Signals to operate much easier and shortened their L of C.

A complete Office and staff was moved to the new site and all lines, local and fwd were laid and teed in on, so all that was necessary on the completion of the move was to cut the lines. This was done with great success and without delays. Sgt BROWN took Comd of the PI for 9 days whilst Signal Offr was in hospital with dengue.

During this period a further line was laid forward of 5800 feature to deserted village in preparation for Coy attack on CAMERONS KNOLL. This line was well laid (Amer 103) under the Comd of Cpl NEWING. Comn on this line ever since its inauguration have never broken down. His work in this area with W/T and line work has been outstanding.

The remainder of the PI during this period carried to 5800 feature. This had to be done owing to the shortage of natives. almost every sig had two carries, some as many as four.

On 24 Jan 44 A Coy attacked CAMERONS KNOLL. They had as comn line to their fwd H Q with an alternative of 108 Mk III PI to Coy had Walkie Talkie sets.

Before the attack 536(b) were tested over a short range and worked perfectly, but when the attack was launched and the feature captured the nature of the terrain made it impossible for R/T comn by these sets.

108 Mk iii at all times whilst in clear ground has been successful.

208 set whilst on spurs and in open kunai has worked exceptionally well. very little trouble has been experienced in the valves.

Batteries 1.5/99 since the application of wax to them, their life has been remarkably increased, that applies to all types.

During the latter part of the month, improvements were made to the existing office and lines poled and put into good order.

The approx number of groups passed during 24 hrs throughout the month was 3000 which is approx one third <sup>that</sup> of MARKHAM Ops

*Admiral*  
Lieut  
Sig O 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

# War Diary

H.Q. 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

4 Feb 44

## REPORT ON WIRELESS SET 108 MK III.

1. This report is based on actual experiences under active service over conditions over a period of one month.

### 2. GENERAL.

This set is much improved on both the 108 MK II and 208 set, although the weight is found to hinder its use on fwd patrolling. The general construction of the set now will withstand excessive movement over rugged country and does not develop bad connections.

a. Batts. Supply. The battery pack 1.5/99 v. has proved a big advantage. The batteries being in one pack enables the carrying of spares much easier. Their life is much the same as the old 108 supply, in active working up to 10 hrs a day the batts was in good condition after 14 days. This amounts to approx 330hrs operation.

b. EMERGENCY RANGE. This range is much more practicable and lends itself to longer working hours.

c. AERIALS. Through tests all aerials supplied with the set have been quite successful although great care must be taken in the siting of the set and aerial for long range operation. The inverted L type aerial has proved most successful over all types of country. Ranges up to 15 miles through hilly country have been obtained. Unless the set is on high ground in timbered country signals are greatly screened. This can be partly overcome by the use of converted L aerial placed in large trees, this of course delays comm owing to the time taken to erect for posts.

Interference - it is found through studying wireless diaries that the only operating times were between 0700 and 1900hrs, on occasional days you would get through up to 2000hrs but on no occasion has comm been maintained after that. Atmospherics are the whole cause of this blackout.

d. Range R/T working is extremely satisfactory this range almost equals its M.C.W. range.

W/T working has the advantage of overriding the static conditions thus increasing the working hours per day.

RANGE.		HILLY	Timbered Jungle.
R/T Red		7 miles	1500 yards
R/T Wire		7-10 miles	1500-2000 yds
M.C.W. Red		7-8 miles	1500-2000 yds
M.C.W. Wire		10-20 miles	2000 yds

e. COUNTERPOISE Over extreme ranges a direct earth is preferable to the counterpoise a direct earth increased the signals as much as 3 points over the counterpoise strength.

IN CONCLUSION. If this set is to be operated as a ground station, remarkable results can be obtained but through heavily wooded country as a pack set to work whilst on the move is not altogether practicable. Through heavy jungle working as a pack set operating on the move 1500 yds is the max range that could be obtained with the red aerial, but by going to the slightest rise in the ground signals would ride the screening and much greater range is obtained.

### Suggested Improvements

1. That all dials i.e.

transmitting, receiving, M/Amp metre. Air tape control, be painted with luminous paint - this would greatly assist in the operational by night in the jungle. It is always pitch black in jungle conditions very early and on patrol it is impracticable to have any lights.

ii. An "off on" switch similar to what on the US set would assist in the sets operation as a ground station still leaving the remote control switch for mobile working only, this would obviate the excessive use of the switch which has always been a weak point with the set, but to date they show no sign of wear and if they stand up to this use there would be no great advantage in it.

iii: Frequency range. A second frequency range would assist and give greater scope for its operation as high power stations are always a cause of interference and would allow the operator more latitude.

*John Seapp*

Lieut.

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SECRET

H Q 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)

INTELLIGENCE REPORT FOR MONTH Jan 44SUMMARY OF EVENTS LEADING TO OPERATIONS.

At 311500L. the Bn received a warning order to move from NADZAB to DUMPU area. The order to move was received 311530L and the Bn commenced emplaning at 010620L.

On arrival at DUMPU, the Unit relieved 2/25 Aust Inf Bn in the MENE R area and came under Comd 25 Aust Inf Bde until 2 Jan when 21 Aust Inf Bde took over the area. At 071200L this Unit returned to Comd 15 Aust Inf Bde(AIF) who relieved 21 Aust Inf Bde. At this time Intelligence personnel were distributed as follows -

B H Q I.O. 1 Cpl. 3 Ptes ( 1 TG II.)

A Coy, Pte T G II.

B Coy. Pte.

C Coy. 1 Pte TG II. 1 Pte.

D Coy. 1 Pte

The Intelligence Section at this stage was handicapped by the absence of the Sgt at LHQ Intelligence School plus 1 Cpl and 2 TG II Ptes awaiting transport for return to Unit from PT MORESBY where they had attended a 15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence School. One TG II on recreational leave, and one TG II Pte in hospital recovering from effects of scrub typhus. The section, however having completed an instructional course extending over a period of 5 weeks of personnel drawn from the Coys, was enabled with the aid of these members to execute the demands made upon it in a satisfactory manner.

Sketches of Bn def posns which extended from the higher features at the headwaters of the MENE River to KEPAWAI a distance of approx 10000yds was immediately drawn up. These def posns were previously held jointly by 2/14 Bn and 2/25 Bn. Revised sketches of these posns were immediately drawn up owing to the lack of infm handed over to this Bn by the relieved Unit.

OPERATIONS.

C Coy moved forward to 5800 feature, which had previously been patrolled by 2/31 Bn. Recce fighting patrols were immediately inaugurated, the Intelligence personnel attached to the Coy accompanied these patrols submitting track going reports and sketches, giving very valuable infm from which proposed operations were based.

Traces of the enemy including documents, were very much in evidence but it was not until 10 Jan that the enemy was contacted on the lower slopes of the feature now known as CAMERONS. The Intelligence member attached to this Coy was fwd with this patrol when contact was made and he was able to plot the posn of enemy MGs and rifle posns, thus enabling a thorough appreciation of the situation to be drawn up.

A Coy relieved C Coy on the fwd posn known as Deserted Village 547677 ref map AMUBA 1 : 25000 Second Edition. Attached to the relieving Coy were two members trained by this section, who were given the chance of improving their knowledge under active conditions.

On 21 Jan a feint attack by 9 pl on Jap posn on SPENDLOVE Spur 567699 was carried out. Once again the Intelligence pers. was able to plot in posns which had not previously <sup>been</sup> suspected. During this operation one Jap was wounded.

On 24 Jan preparations being complete, A Coy with arty support made the attack on the Jap posn which was successfully breached at 241620L.

During the operation one Intelligence member was forward with the attacking pl passing back all available infm to the remaining member at Coy Hq.

Owing to the speed at which events were moving, and the work that our attached Intelligence members were executing, infm was not being received

attached Intelligence members were executing, info was not received at this H Q as detailed and often as desired, and to obviate this lack a further Intelligence member moved forward to assist, and make for a more satisfactory and accurate description of events of the moment. Results immediately proved the wisdom of this course, which is that now generally adopted with the fwd Coy.

Casualties in the action against the enemy on 24 Jan were as follows -

Own - 1 Offr 5 ORs killed. 7 ORs wounded.

Enemy - 6 killed 1 probable.

In their withdrawal from this posn the enemy did not leave any eqpt or documents that could be of any service to our troops. However one identity disc and one book of poems were forwarded to 15 bde H Q for translation.

On 29 Jan D Coy relieved A Coy in the fwd posn, 2 members of the Intelligence Sec moving up with this Coy to relieve the 2 members who had spent some considerable time forward.

D Coy continued aggressive patrolling into enemy positions contacting the enemy on one occasion to 31 Jan.

Contacts for the month of Jan on the whole Bn front were seven. Total battle casualties for these including the operations 24 Jan were -

Own. 7 killed. 9 wounded.

Enemy 6 killed 1 probably killed. 1 wounded.

#### ENEMY AIR OPS.

150730L. 3 enemy planes type 109 strafed DUMPU area firing one burst into B H Q area killing one OR and wounding one.

#### MORALE.

The morale of the Unit during the month was high and the tps confidence in themselves in action was always noticeable.

HEALTH. Under the conditions which the Unit has been operating in the DUMPU - RAMU Valley area, the health of the troops has been good. Although evacuations in the first 3 weeks of January were large, the remaining period showed a marked decline, that together with the return of troops from MDS has kept the Bn figures at a reasonable level.

GENERAL. During the month, the Intelligence section suffered depletion for short periods by evacuations to hospital and the section thus left were hard put to satisfy the demands made upon it. Owing to the fact, however, that several members of the Unit had just completed a Unit Intelligence School, they were made available for Intelligence work, thus proving once again that to be a good section, replacements must always be trained and available to fill the inevitable wastage.

It was noticeable that the enemy in this area went to great pains to ensure that no documents or eqpt were left behind in their withdrawals. This is a marked change to previous practice as experienced in the SALAMAUA-LAE - BOANA ops, and indicates that the Japanese are becoming conscious of the value of security.

Tactics, generally, were unchanged. The enemy posns taken and occupied were all found to be excellently sited on spurs and ridges, with the flanks as nearly impenetrable as possible. The enemy encountered in this area have shown themselves capable of good fire control in ambush posns but are liable to fire ~~on leading scout~~ rather high if surprised. They show a tendency to fire on leading scout rather than wait for the ambush to close.

Japs do not hesitate to use captured weapons as evidenced by automatic weapons recaptured from them. They continue to use grenades extensively although although the casualties caused by them have been very small.

As usual the Japs have gone to great pains to evacuate their dead and wounded. From all reports the enemy encountered have appeared to be in good condition but it was noted that most of them, though armed, did not wear equipment. As previously learnt they do not patrol offensively to any marked extent.

*D. J. Smith* Lieut  
I.O. 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)



APPY

J

R.M.O's REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

Appx J.

As the R.M.O., Capt F L R SHARP is with the fwd Coy in Ops,  
he is unable to prepare the monthly report for January 1944.

MONTHLY MEDICAL REPORT - JAN 44 APPX "J".

"ANY REFERENCE TO SHIPPING OR TROOP MOVEMENTS WILL RESULT IN THE DELAY OR MUTILATION OF THIS LETTER"

USE MILITARY ADDRESS ONLY



In the field  
5 Feb 44.

CO 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)  
15 Aust Fd Amb (AIF) - for info.

1. General - This report is compiled on general lines for the month of Jan 44. Statistical data is not at present available to the RMO, but would be obtainable from N.G.F. forms A which have been submitted weekly.
2. Location and Area - During the earlier part of the month the greater part of the Bn, being concentrated on the northern slopes and foothills of the RAMU VALLEY, was under good conditions. However in this regard one must draw attention to the prevalence of DENGUE FEVER which is mentioned in para 10 (a) below. The later area of operations of the forward Coy were not so satisfactory, being typical wet and muddy jungle on the colder ridges of the FINISTERRE RANGE.
3. Water Supply - was good in quality but of restricted quantity - especially on the higher Coy areas where it had on occasions to be carried for upwards of one hour.
4. Medical Arrangements - While in the valley the chain of evacuation was from Coy Aid Posts through RAP direct to the Fd Amb. Later with the movement of operations to the North a medical log C was set out as follows: - RMO with Coy Aid Post, a six bed Staging Post at KENNEDY'S CAMP (at which minor medical cases could be held) and a Staging Post at CASEY'S CAMP - bearing being done by RSB & later natives as far as CASEY'S CAMP and thence to jeephead by bearers from the Reserve Coy. These were the arrangements at the time of the assault on SPENDLOVE'S SPUR and CAMERON'S KNOLL. Later with the establishment of a Surgical Post at KESEWAI I

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES



the SP at KENNEDY'S CAMP was closed down and the SP at CASEY'S CAMP reduced in size. A strong SP was established at DESERTED VILLAGE for the use of the food Coy. These arrangements exist at present.

- 5. RSB - a school for RSB's was completed early in the month. Four bearers were allotted to each Coy. Later all bearers were recalled under comd BHQ & reposted to accomplish the Log C detailed above. It is the RMO's opinion that RSB should maintain their BHQ identity and should not feel that they are integral parts of a Coy or even a Pl.
- 6. Rations - have been ample and of a uniformly good quality. That such a steady supply and pleasant variation could be maintained demands comment when one considers the difficulties to be overcome.
- 7. Medical Supplies - Under this heading is also included such Q&C and Ordnance supplies as are used in antimalarial and other hygiene precautions. The supply has been throughout the month adequate.
- 8. Fitness of Tps - In this respect one must draw attention to the fact that the Bn has been in contact with the enemy for 9 months with a break of only 6 weeks in Nov 43. In addition, for most of this time, the Bn has been situated further North than any other Australian Tps. It is realized that a large part of the operations were active patrolling only; but the isolation of the force and lack of support were a strain on the nerves. The splendid self reliance of the Bn in establishing staging posts, supply lines, rest areas, dropping grounds etc was most praiseworthy during the period of its isolated activities. However the RMO realizes also that the limits of human endurance are far wider than generally thought by the untutored mind and that the Tps, if called upon, could carry out further tasks. This



would not be advisable unless operational demands or shortage of tps make the situation unavoidable. Under the heading of "fitness of tps" one must pay attention to the views of Pl Comds. The more experienced and steady officers, some of 6 Div service, hold the following opinions: - that the tps, through prolonged service in contact with the enemy, are "jumpy" and that there is a reluctance to perform tasks now which previously were undertaken with the greatest enthusiasm; also that wastage through sickness and battle casualties has left the Bn very low in numbers - now a casualty inflicted by the enemy leaves a bigger psychological scar as lessening of numbers has meant a closer acquaintance with in the Coy. This diminution in numbers has also meant that the more reliable ~~men~~ men left are called upon to bear the brunt of the more difficult and dangerous tasks - this unequal, if unavoidable, division of labour results in a very heavy strain on the more capable few who are left.

To summarize this long para, one could say that the tps are capable of further service if operational needs so demand, but that any such service would not be in the best medical interests as both battle casualties and sick wastage would be high. Otherwise it is strongly indicated that reinforcements be provided so that tasks can be adequately shared and thus a marked nervous tension will be allowed to relax.

9. Hygiene - The standard of hygiene within the Unit is consistently high in all aspects. The continued low evacuation rate from malaria is a source of pride to the Unit - especially as the service during the last 9 months has been in highly malarious areas. Although comparisons are not desirable one cannot help but compare the figures of this Bn with those of other Bns which served for a much shorter period over the same ground

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Four horizontal lines for military address.

doing the same job.

10. Specific Diseases - a) Dengue Fever - The figures have been high, especially among the troops sited on the flats beside the EVADIA + RAMU RIVERS. The vaccination rate from this condition fell after it had been suggested that mosquito lotion be applied hourly throughout the day, thus obviating the bite of the day-flying mosquito which carries the disease.

b) Scrub Typhus - has been prevented since the use of mokka repellent - No cases occurred during the month.

c) Skin Diseases - The only ones of importance were the infections of the feet seen on men serving in the jungle areas. This has been controlled by stricter foot inspections by regimental officers and earlier treatment by medical orderlies of minor abrasions.

d) Dysenteric Group - sporadic cases of diarrhoea and clinical dysentery of minor degree - all controlled by RAP treatment.

Frank Sharp Capt  
RMO, 24 Aust Inf Bn.

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APPX.

K

REGISTERED BY ARTY

3°

Posn. of Contact

1011454

20° 30'

25°

32°

39°

40°

RIGHT SIDE

OF KUNAI

PATCH

49°

PATCH OF DEAD TIMBER

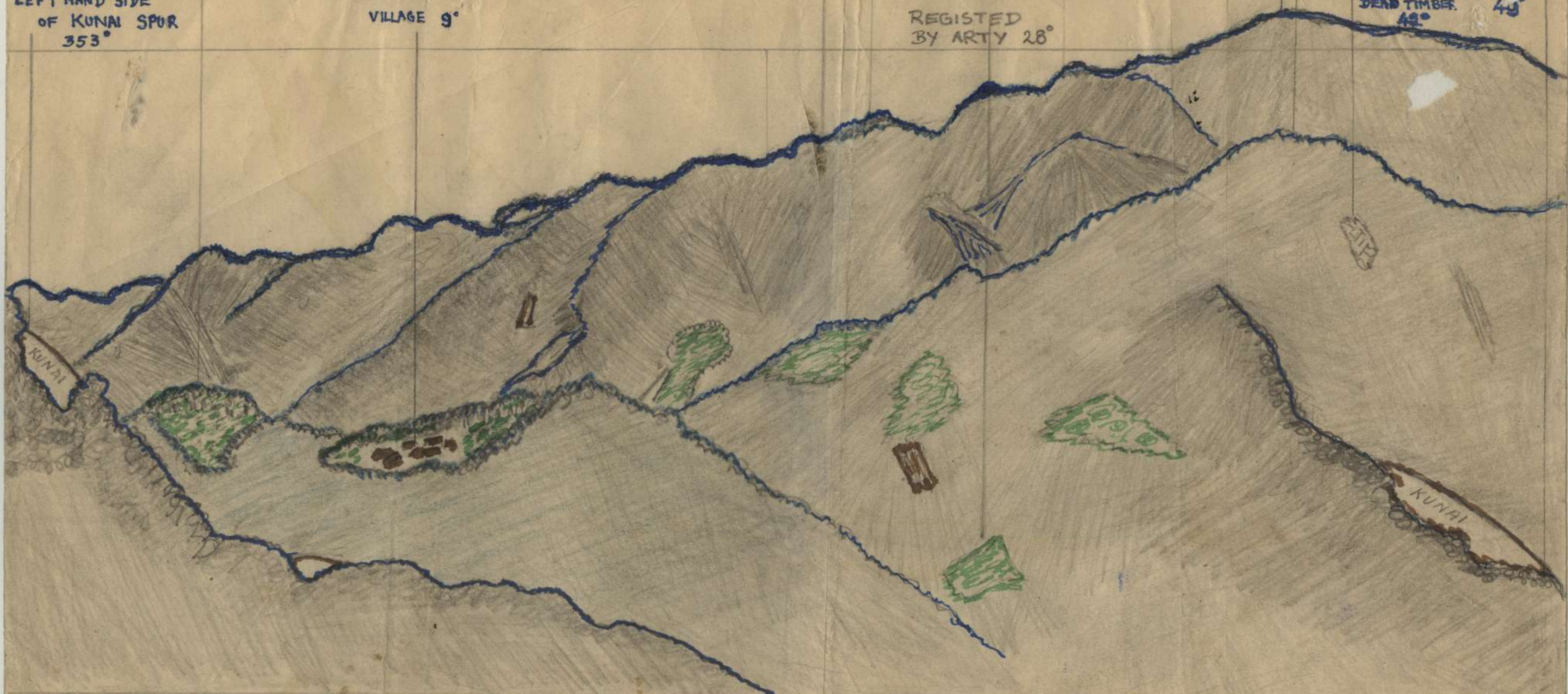
42°

LEFT HAND SIDE  
OF KUNAI SPUR  
353°

REGISTERED BY ARTY

VILLAGE 9°

REGISTERED  
BY ARTY 28°



LEGEND

SECONDARY GROWTH  
OR  
GARDENS



ROCK FACE



POSN. OF O.P.

563 672

NAME OF MAP

AMUBA

25000

TIME 1400 HRS.

DATE 21 JAN '44.

WEATHER . SLIGHT HAZE

P. B. Dorman  
1st e Coy



To I. O.

TYPE RECCE

FROM A Coy.

PATROL LEADER: PTE ANSWERTH

REF MAP: MT. OTTO 1"

DATE 12/1/44

FOUNDED BY 98 EC. 9 P.M. A COY.

PATROL STRENGTH: 4 OR'S

ARMAMENT: 2 OS MG. 2 RIFLES

OBJECT OF PATROL: To cut track through  
from A Coy H.Q.'S to river crossing

at 536610 MT. OTTO 1" <sup>RAMU</sup> to cross river  
and sandy ground on this side for <sup>map</sup> track.

WEATHER: Cloudy, otherwise fine.

ROUTE OUT: proceeding on a bearing of  
195° M, to reach RAMU Riv. at  
536610 MT. OTTO 1"

ROUTE IN: Patrol returned along track  
made on Route Out.

TIME OUT: 1000 hrs.

TIME IN: 1535 hrs.

DETAILS: Patrol proceeding on 195° M cutting  
a track reached RAMU Riv at 536610  
MT. OTTO 1" at 1300 hrs. The ground was  
of a swampy nature, patrol crossed  
over two (2) overgrown creeks.

The track cut was only a  
foot track to connect with rope  
strapped across RAMU Riv.

Patrol was unable to cross RAMU Riv  
on account of rope being too slack.

Answerth. PTE.

~~Answerth. PTE.~~

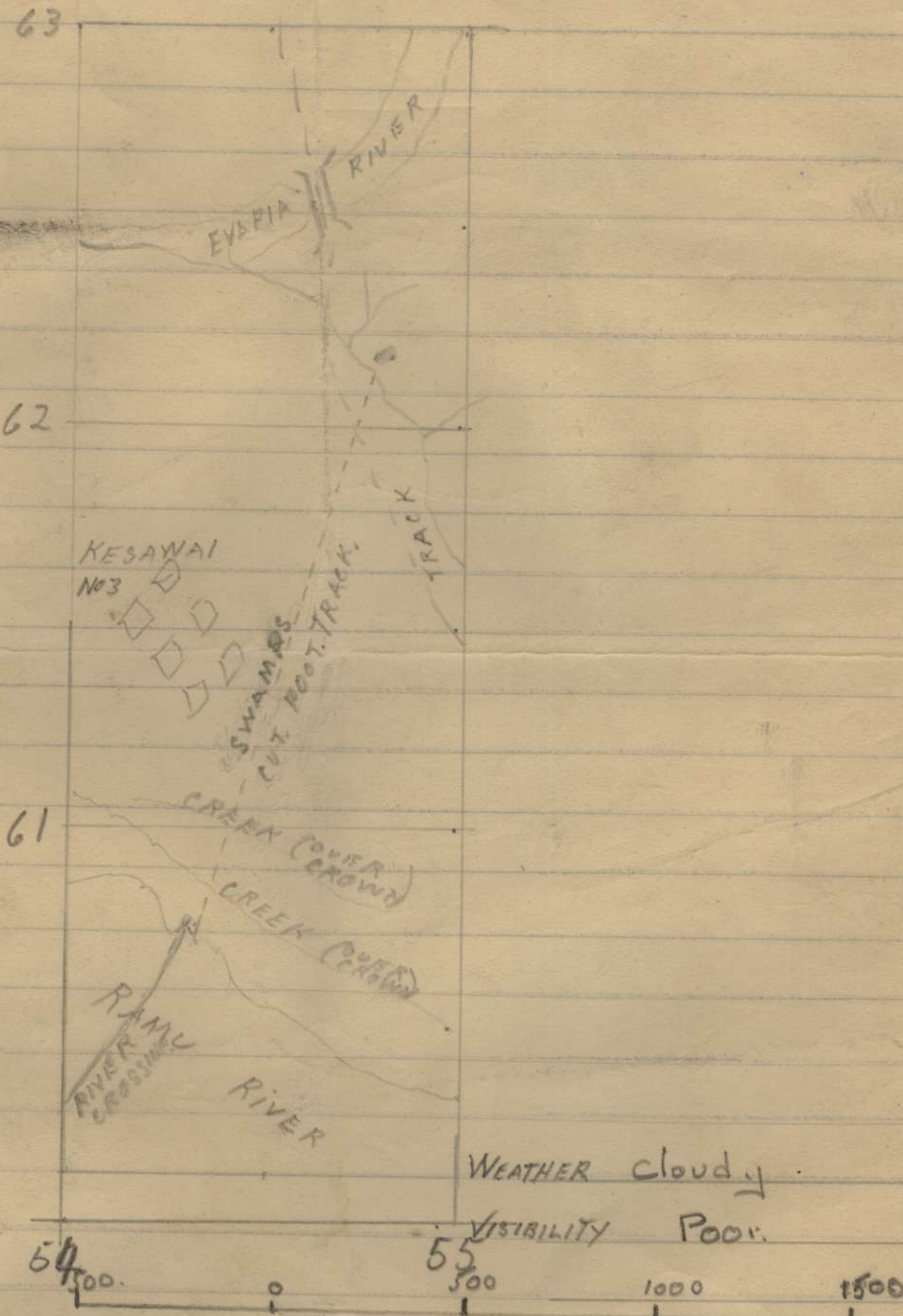
TITLE - TRACK. REC.

Area file ~~copies~~

REF MAP. MT. OTTO. A COY TO RAMU RIVER ON BG 1950

REF POINT 549628

R.F. 1:18000



WEATHER cloudy

VISIBILITY Poor

DRAWN SCALE

SCALE 1" to 500'

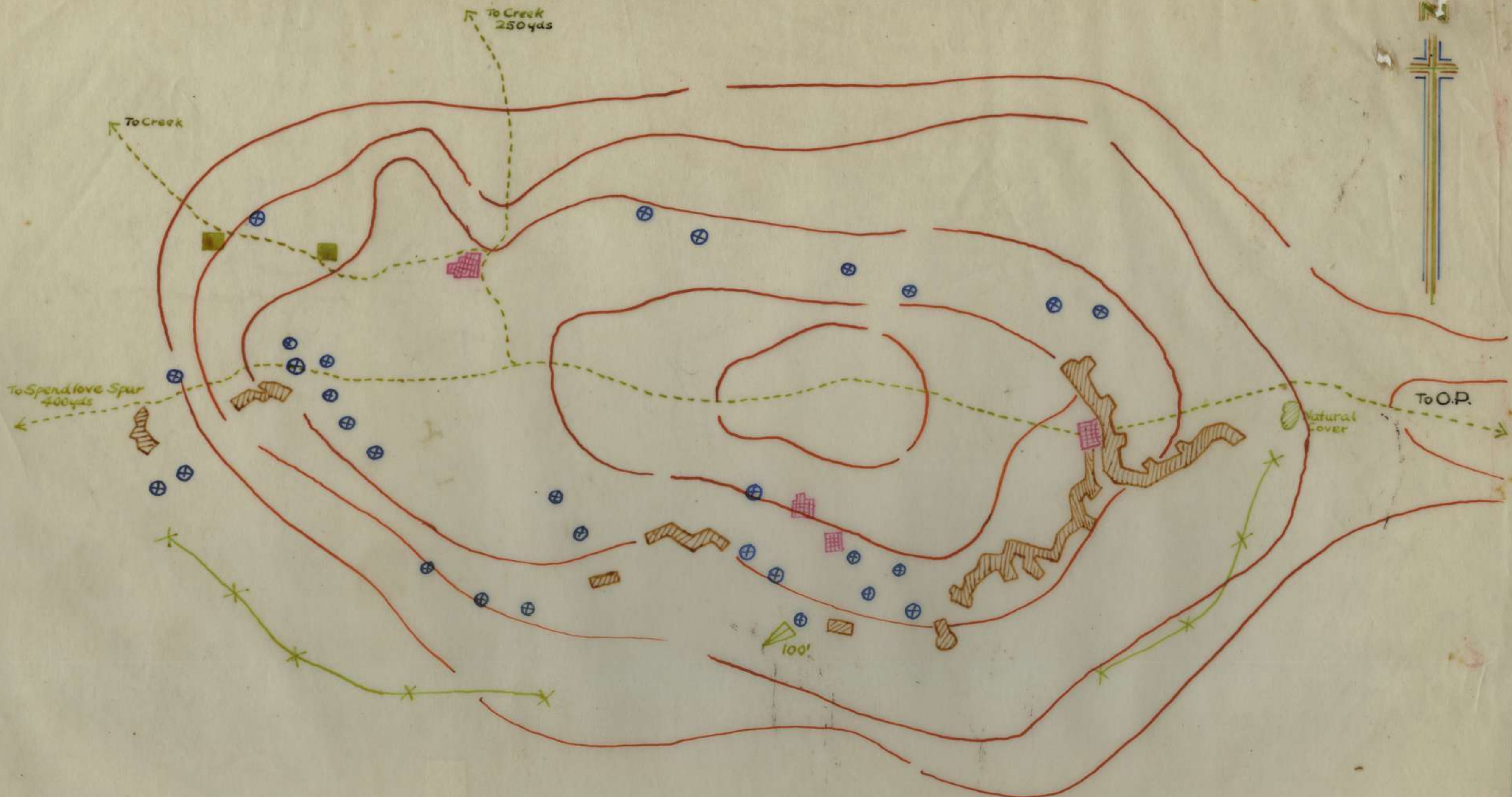
TIME TAKEN ~~2~~ 1000 IN 1500

TIME AND DATE 1830 12 Jan 44

NAME AND RANK ~~W. H. H. H.~~ PTK

UNIT 9 PTL A COY

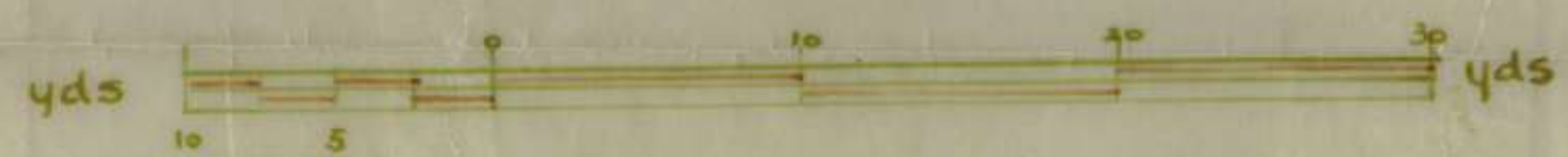
# EYE SKETCH OF JAP DEFENSIVE POSITION AT CAMERON'S KNOLL



## LEGEND

- Fox Holes
- Vine Barriers
- Tracks
- Slit Trenches
- Dugouts
- Huts
- Lookout 100'
- Complete Primary Growth.

SCALE 1 INCH = 10 YARDS



FORM LINE INTERVAL 10 FEET.

Time 1430 hrs  
Date 1 Feb. '44