

AWM52

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

1/4/8 CORPS

2 Australian Corps
General Branch (2 Aust
Corps 'G' Branch)

1944, part 1, appendices



1/4/8-0303

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 75

(Information from 2000L/22 Dec to 2000L/23 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. AIR - OWN

(a) HUON PENINSULA. Twenty-four Bostons carried out a bombing and strafing mission on barge hide-outs at NAMBARIWA. 10 tons of bombs were dropped in target areas and many strafing passes made. Three barges were reported destroyed and three damaged by strafing.

(b) ALEXISHAFEN. Twelve Mitchells and nine Marauders bombed dispersal areas and dumps. All bombs were seen to fall in the target areas causing fires and probably destroying two or three grounded aircraft. 31 tons of bombs were dropped.

(c) CAPE GLOUCESTER. Sixty-one Liberators bombed targets in CAPE GLOUCESTER area. 155 tons of bombs were dropped, the majority of which fell in the target areas. Some small fires were the only results observed.

Six Airacobras in a barge sweep on the SW coast of NEW BRITAIN destroyed two Type A barges.

(d) WEWAK. Twenty-one Mitchells bombed strips and township at WEWAK. 12 tons of bombs were dropped and heavy black smoke obscured the area. Our fighters intercepted 9 to 11 enemy fighters over BORAM and destroyed one enemy aircraft without loss to themselves.

2. SEA - OWN

(a) REISS POINT. On night 22/23 Dec the PT boats sank two Type A and two Type B barges off REISS POINT. In addition two Type A barges were destroyed as they made the beach at this Point. All barges were moving on a northerly course empty.

(b) SCHARNHORST POINT. Off SCHARNHORST POINT the PT boats also sank one Type A barge and damaged three Type A barges, which were moving South loaded. Our craft were subjected to heavy fire from the shore. While the PT boats were in this vicinity signals were sighted passing from the coast to TUAM Islands.

3. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

It now seems certain that the enemy activity which flared up from 8 to 13 Dec and has since gradually died down was nothing more than a reconnaissance in force and that the enemy has withdrawn from the advanced positions which he reached between the KESAWAI area and EVAPIA R.

On 22 Dec in 25 Bde sector a patrol from B Coy PIB reached 482697 without meeting any enemy. Otherwise there has been some regrouping only. Bde HQ is located at 610567, and 2/25 Bn at 598590 with one company at 545624. At last light 2/33 Bn occupied the area 621573 with companies at 630585 and 621586, and 2/31 Bn was at 590597 with one company at 568624 and one platoon covering the area 592603 to 604594, with standing patrols at 599603 and 602595. 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn was at 619636.

In 21 Bde sector our artillery harassed the enemy during the day.

Tac R along the BOGADJIM Road on 22 Dec shows that no attempt has been made to rebuild the bridges washed away by recent floods, but that the landslides over the road near NENZANRAI (564818) have been cleared. There were signs of foot traffic along the road and some MT tracks were observed between MABELUBU (574849) and NENZANRAI.

SECRET

PART I (Contd)

3. LAND -- OWN AND ENEMY (Contd)

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps MASAWENG R WEST and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25000).

On 22 Dec 20 Aust Inf Bde advanced more than 2000 yds beyond HUBIKA. 2/13 Bn again led and the coastal column after crossing deep and nearly perpendicular ravines at 554862 and 550866 reached and occupied the high spur at 549866 without opposition. These ravines make the track impassable to vehicles without considerable engineering work and jeep head is still at HUBIKA. Between these obstacles, however, the route is fair going. Meanwhile the inland column moved forward over very difficult country about 1000 yards SW of the track and saw no movement. At last light the battalion was disposed as follows: Bn HQ 550865, A Coy 551862, B Coy from 549866 to 546866, and C and D Coys from 543850 to 546856. 2/15 Bn moved up behind 2/13 Bn. Its dispositions were: Bn HQ at 557354, A Coy at 556857, B Coy at 555851, C Coy at 563844, and D Coy at 557860. There was no change in the dispositions of 2/17 Bn.

Further south in 4 Bde sector a patrol from 37/52 Bn through the general area 5682 saw no movement. A patrol from C Coy along the north bank of MASAWENG R to 544810 did not contact the enemy. PIE patrols south of MASAWENG R from 572804 to AIMALAO and then to 515783 and 534807 also made no contact.

24 Aust Inf Bde took over the defence of the GUSIKA, WAREO and LANGEMAK BAY areas. Dispositions of 2/28 Bn were: Bn HQ 553718, A Coy 548717, B Coy on the 2200 feature in the area 5672, C Coy 555721, and D Coy from BAZULUO to 555726 and 555728. A Coy 2/32 Bn moved to SATELEBERG and the 3200 feature in 5366. 2/43 Bn was in brigade reserve with A Coy at 618681, B Coy 621675. Dispositions of the remainder of the battalion were unchanged.

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde, 2/23 Bn less B Coy and 2/24 Bn less A and B Coys were concentrated near GUSIKA. B Coy 2/23 Bn was at WAREO with A and B Coys 2/24 Bn occupying the 2200 feature at 5774. 2/48 Bn bivouacked south of KATIKA village.

Tac R reports state that no further development of the enemy positions at WANDOKAI are apparent.

The night 22/23 Dec was uneventful and there is nothing to report.

Signed at 2345 hrs.

Handwritten signature
Lt-col
GS

101 file
SECRET

2/ AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 71:

(Information from 2000L/21 Dec to 2000L/22 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps FORTIFICATION POINT and MASAWENG R WEST 1/25,000)

After only a day's pause for consolidation and regrouping the advance up the coast has been resumed and HUBIKA (562848) has been captured.

On 21 Dec 20 Aust Inf Bde passed through 4 Aust Inf Bde and pushed forward rapidly. 2/13 Bn led in two columns:
/one A and B Coys with MMG platoon on the right along the comparatively easy going of the coastal track, C and D Coys on the left over the steep and difficult country of the lower slopes of FORTIFICATION HILL. Little opposition was met: two enemy were killed in a 40 ft deep gorge at 569847 and a tree-top sniper near HUBIKA was shot down. By 1640 hrs our troops had reached HUBIKA and occupied the village. The tanks kept well up behind the forward infantry and at last light 10 tanks were in the outskirts of HUBIKA, but it is reported that the ravine just west of the village is at present impassable to jeeps or tanks. B Coy however pushed across and established itself on the west bank. 40 to 50 dead Japs were found in the creek bed at 561848, having apparently been killed by our artillery fire, and one PW was captured. At last light the dispositions of 2/13 Bn were as follows: Bn HQ 563848, A Coy 562848, B Coy 560849, C Coy 563842, D Coy 566841. 2/15 Bn also moved up during the day and at last light was disposed as follows: Bn HQ 576844, A Coy 573848, B Coy 579838, C Coy 575846, D Coy 574843, with /of two platoons/2/2 MG Bn also in the area. 2/17 Bn moved forward to the MASAWENG R area and its dispositions at last light were: Bn HQ 585804, A Coy 586802, B Coy 584803, C Coy 588790, D Coy 583805. Tactical HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde was established at 587802. In 4 Bde area a patrol from 37/52 Bn killed one enemy at 547807 and captured a quantity of enemy equipment. A total of 9 fresh graves were found at 547810 and 543810 respectively. B Coy 37/52 Bn moved to higher ground at 575823 and the detached platoon of C Coy rejoined the company at 564809.

There was some reorganisation in 24 Bde area. A Coy 2/32 Bn moved to SATELBERG and B Coy less one platoon to 610718 with one platoon at 616721.

In 26 Bde sector, 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn collected 200 natives including children in the area 5178 and 5278. They were taken to WAREO. Natives report that the enemy left SANGA R area on 18 Dec. 2/26 Bn relieved 2/23 Bn in the WAREO-BAZULUO area.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

A patrol from 2/2 Pnr Bn found an enemy position, strength estimated at one platoon, at 675660. A patrol from 2/25 Bn found an enemy position at 527743. B Coy PIB moved to 532642.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 21/22 Dec the PT boats sank two loaded enemy barges moving south at a point one mile south of WALINGAI. The PT boats also attacked three 120 ft barges 6 miles SE of SAKAR ISLAND. These barges were heavily armed and armour-plated. Shore batteries in the vicinity of DORF POINT (5 miles SW of CAPE GLOUCESTER) opened fire on our craft at a distance of 10,000 yards. One enemy aircraft also attacked the PT boats.

3. AIR - OWN (25 Dec)

(a) HUON PENINSULA

Twelve Bostons and eight Marauders bombed and strafed targets between HUBIKA and WANLOKAI in support of 9 Aust Div. Targets were well covered by bomb bursts and strafing and several explosions were seen. 14 tons of bombs were dropped.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER AREA. (ref map WESTERN NEW BRITAIN 4 miles to 1 inch).

Seventy-eight Liberators, thirty-five Bostons and ten Mitchells bombed and strafed thirteen separate targets in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area. 254 tons of bombs were dropped. Results generally were not observed.

During night 21/22 Dec continued harassing raids over this area were made by Liberators. A total of 80 100 lb bombs was dropped at intervals throughout the night.

Twelve Bostons accurately bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas near SILIMATI POINT (XM7492), dropping 4½ tons of bombs.

Six Airacobras in a barge sweep from BORGAN BAY to REIN BAY strafed buildings and barges. Two barges were left burning and one damaged.

(c) INTERCEPTION. Four Squadrons of Lightnings escorting our bombers in attacks on WEWAK and BORAM were intercepted by a strong force of enemy fighters. In the ensuing engagements sixteen enemy fighters were shot down. Our losses were three Lightnings destroyed and five damaged.

PART II

4. ENEMY DEFENCES: (ref maps MASAWENG R WEST and BLUCHER POINT 1/25,000)

(a) Tac/R reports of 21 Dec state that the entire WANDOKAI area appears to be strongly defended, and that there are hastily prepared positions on the western banks of all creek crossings between HUBIKA and WANDOKAI. In particular there are eight small posts astride the coastal track about 5586, four more about 5287 and 5387 and a bunker with some diggings at 517880 in the eastern outskirts of WANDOKAI. It is also stated that there is much track activity with some defensive positions on the kunai terraces in the area.

(b) There appears to be little activity around SIALUM, but Tac/R of 20 Dec reports newly constructed bunkers and field works (possibly for beach defence) at KANSARUA (474961) and on the shore 1000 yards to north as well as newly established ammunition and supply dumps in this area.

Comment. Enemy instructions have recently laid emphasis on the preparation of dummy defences and the use of deception. It seems possible therefore that some of the field works seen may prove to be dummy positions.

5. ENEMY OOB

A PW captured at HUBIKA on 21 Dec belonged to 2 Coy 79 Regt. He stated that on 16 Dec, the strength of his Company was 40. He added that I En was ordered to concentrate at WANDOKI, following the route LAKONA - HUBIKA and thence inland. II and III Bns were to follow but did not pass through HUBIKA. 80 Regt passed through HUBIKA northward on the coastal track. PW believed a stand would be made at WANDOKAI.

Comment. This PW provides further evidence of the move to the coast of 80 Regt after its defeat in the inland sector north of WAREO.

The suggested stand at WANDOKAI is considered likely in view of the suitability of the terrain. The defile at 519881 is particularly narrow and the steep sided ridge running inland to the south offers facilities for defence. The Tac/R reports in para 4 above also support this possibility.

6. ENEMY CD: BOGADJIM-SAIDOR.

A Jap PW of 80 Regt, captured near DONGA at the end of Sep 43, has stated that in July there were four batteries each consisting of seven or eight guns disposed along the coast between BOGADJIM and SAIDOR. The gun crews were stated to be SNLP members. PW was uncertain whether the guns were naval or army type, but from his description they would probably be the 12 cm guns with which it is known SNLPs have sometimes been equipped. Little is known of this gun which is probably a modified naval type.

PART II Contd

6. ENEMY CD: BOGADJIM-SAIDOR (Contd)

PW also stated that at each battery position from BOGADJIM to SAIDOR there were usually four large tents set up about 1000 metres from the guns. These were for gun crews and each would accommodate about 30 troops.

In SAIDOR he stated there were six guns with a further seven in the outskirts of the village. All guns were manned by YOKOSUKA SNLP.

Comment: The only SNLP troops known to be forward of MADANG are the remnants, mainly from SASEDO 5, which suffered heavy casualties at LAE and which are in the forward area opposing 9 Aust Div. It is quite likely however that there are other SNLPs along the coast as suggested by the PW. It has been realised for some time that the gun positions sited along the coast were in excess of the fire power available from identified artillery units. It was also clear that the crews to man coast defences would have to be provided from other than already identified units.

signed at 2245 hrs

Shanley Jones
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 73

(Information from 2000L/20 Dec to 2000L/21 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY
9 AUST DIV

(ref maps FORTIFICATION POINT and MASAVENG R West 1/25000).
At 1600 hrs 20 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde occupied FORTIFICATION HILL, the high 800 ft feature at 569823, and thus brought to a successful conclusion a definite phase in the advance up the coast. This advance has been steady and sustained since the Brigade first crossed KALUENG R on 3 Dec. With the support of tanks and of concentrated artillery fire the infantry has overcome the tenacious resistance of the enemy and has captured a long series of well-defended positions held by stubborn rearguards. On 20 Dec 29/46 Bn, which captured the defile at 584818 on 19 Dec, consolidated its position and patrolled forward to the swamp at 586830 opposite FORTIFICATION POINT, without making contact with the enemy. At last light the Battalion was disposed as follows: D Coy 586822, A Coy 584816, C Coy 583809, B Coy 582820. Five dead Japs were found in C Coy's position. On the left flank 37/52 Bn climbed the steep slopes of FORTIFICATION HILL during the day and at 1600 hrs seized the crest without opposition, encountering only a few stragglers. At last light the Battalion was disposed: B Coy at 583824, A Coy at 572824, Bn HQ and D Coy at 572804 and C Coy less a platoon at 564809 with one platoon at 569821. 22 Bn did not change its dispositions during the day. A considerable number of enemy were seen moving NE at 544810. They were engaged by our artillery and MGs, and many casualties are believed to have been inflicted. Further south a patrol from 9 Aust Div Carrier Coy captured one Jap at 597762 and a PIB patrol killed one at 594757.

In the BONGA-WAREO track area some re-grouping has taken place. On 20 Dec 2/28 Bn moved to WAREO and A Coy 2/32 Bn moved to 597716.

In 26 Bde sector our patrols were active. Extensive patrolling both NE and NW of WAREO found no enemy.

During the day our artillery fired 1418 rounds in support of 4 Aust Inf Bde and also shelled suspected dump areas and enemy, who were seen moving at various points.

5 AUST DIV

On 20 Dec two enemy were captured near NADZAB. These Japs, together with those recently discovered at LUMBAIP, were stragglers from the original force at LAE.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps KUMBARUM, 1/25000 series and URIGINA 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 20 Dec 25 Bde patrols were active but made no contact. In 21 Bde sector following a successful air strike, a patrol from 2/16 Bn raided an enemy position (about 692631) on SHAGGY Ridge and inflicted casualties. A patrol from 2/2 Cav(Commando) Sqn reported URIGINA (384854) clear of enemy.

2. AIR - OWN (21 Dec)

(a) HUON PENINSULA. Between 1130 hrs and 1155 hrs eleven Bostons bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas near WANDOKAI, WALINGAI and AGO. Bombing was reported inaccurate. 4 1/2 tons were dropped.

(b) MADANG. Twenty-four Mitchells bombed dumps in MADANG area. 21 tons of bombs were dropped, destroying some buildings and starting fires. One Mitchell was shot down by AA fire.

PART I (Contd)

SECRET

2. AIR - OWN (Contd)

(c) CAPE GLOUCESTER (ref map WESTERN NEW BRITAIN, 4 miles to 1 inch).

Fifty-four Liberators, twenty-five Bostons and ten Mitchells attacked targets from DORF POINT (XM5694) to CAPE GLOUCESTER. 172 tons of bombs were dropped and targets were heavily strafed but results generally were not observed. Twenty-four Mitchells attacked TARGET HILL near SILIMATI POINT (XM7492), dropping 21 tons of bombs. Gun positions in the area were blanketed by bomb bursts.

(d) INTERCEPTION

Fourteen Lightnings whilst on a fighter sweep about 10 miles east of ARAWE intercepted some eight to ten enemy bombers and twelve to fifteen fighters. Eight bombers and two fighters were destroyed without loss to our aircraft.

PART II

3. CAPTURED ENEMY WEAPONS

The following table shows:

- (a) the total number of enemy weapons of each type that have been reported captured or destroyed in the 9 Aust Div area from 8 Oct to 19 Dec,
- (b) the estimated number brought into the area,, and
- (c) the difference, representing an estimate of those that remain:

Type of Weapon	Total reported captured or destroyed	Estimated No brought into area	No left still avail
75mm Guns	10	20	10
70mm Guns	5	14	9
37mm QF Guns	7	12	5
20mm AA Guns	3	6	3
13mm AA Guns	17	22	5
81mm Mortars	10	18(?)	8(?)
Lt Mortars	19	72(?)	53(?)
HMGs	18	56	38
LMGs.	91	252	161

A tentative allocation of 75mm Guns, 70mm Guns, 37mm QF Guns and LMGs. to the principal units is as follows:

	<u>75mm Guns</u>	<u>70mm Guns</u>	<u>37mm QF Guns</u>	<u>LMGs</u>
79 Regt	2	2	3	34
80 Regt	2	2	2	23
238 Regt	-	1	2	34
26 Fd Arty Regt6	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	10	5	7	91

Signed at 1110 hrs.

[Signature]
Lt-col
GS

Explanatory Notes to the Table of Captured Weapons

- (a) Estimated number of weapons brought into area and consequently number remaining in area are subject to revision when more detailed information can be obtained.
- (b) In instances where "several" LMGs have been reported, "several" has been interpreted as "two". The total (91) shown as captured or destroyed is therefore probably too low.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 72

(Information from 2000L/19 Dec to 2000L/20 Dec 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps MASAWENG R AND KULUNGUFU, 1 inch to 1 mile series and MASAWENG R WEST AND FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000 series).

On 19 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde advanced further 1300 yds along the coast. At 0730 hrs 29/46 Bn resumed its drive forward with C Coy leading, and at 1500 hrs our troops supported by artillery, MMGs and tanks attacked a strong enemy position in the defile at 584818. The enemy resisted stubbornly for three hours with all available weapons and even employed a 75 mm gun over open sights. The position however was finally captured and at 1800 hrs C Coy had pushed forward to 586823. In the encounter one 75 mm gun and six LMGs were captured, and one 37 mm QF gun was found buried. B Coy, which had moved over the high ground to the west of the track relieved C Coy at 586823 and C Coy then dropped back into reserve at 581819. In the meantime A and D Coys had crossed the MASAWENG R at 0730 hrs and advanced to 586819. On the left flank C and D Coys 37/52 Bn occupied without opposition the high ground at 563809 and 573808 respectively. Bn HQ and B Coy moved to MASAWENG R at 571804 and A Coy advanced to 570800. A patrol from A Coy 22 Bn to the creek at 578795 saw no movement. A PIB patrol moved from 640770 SW along the track to 587750, then north to the SOWI R, NW to 573770 and SW to 565765. One enemy was killed at 580763 and 28 enemy dead with much abandoned equipment were found along the track between 570769 and 565765. These Japs appeared to have died from starvation.

In 20 Bde sector 2/13 Bn and 2/15 Bn moved forward to a position south of MASAWENG R and at last light were disposed as follows:- 2/13 Bn: HQ 588797, A Coy 583805, B Coy 587801, C Coy 585803, D Coy 588798. 2/15 Bn: HQ 588797, A Coy 587798, B Coy 593790, C Coy 588798, D Coy 588795. The Divisional Carrier Coy advanced to 600772.

In 26 Bde area the standing patrol from 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn moved from ZAGAHEMI to KINGFARINGNAU (418793). They saw three enemy positions SW of ZAGAHEMI and an enemy foraging party 1000 yards to the south. A patrol from the Squadron left MERIKEO for HOMPUA (475814) and a four-day patrol set out for MASAWENG R area. B Coy 2/23 Bn moved from BAZULUO towards LAKONA. 2/23 Bn patrols from WAREO to 557723 and 558730 saw no movement. A patrol from 2/24 Bn moved through 567736 to SOWI R at 563740, then down the river to 563746 and on to 567747, but saw no movement. Other patrols in the area 5674 and 5775 also made no contact with the enemy. C Coy PIB moved from KULUNGUFU towards YUNZAING (395746).

During the day our artillery fired 780 rounds in support of 4 Bde and also shelled a suspected enemy position near FORTIFICATION POINT.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 19 Dec 2/33 Bn found an enemy post held by an estimated two platoons on the 5800 feature (560678). Our troops engaged the enemy who withdrew. At last light 2/33 Bn was disposed with one company at 562675 and two companies at 566684. It was reported on 19 Dec that a five-day patrol from 2/25 Bn had reached 502718 and saw an enemy party at 499725. B Coy PIB at 480660 patrolled north to the SOLU R. A patrol from 21 Bde reached 673660 without contacting any enemy.

SECRET

2. AIR-OWN (20 Dec 43)

(a) HUON PENINSULA: (ref maps 1/25,000 series).

In support of 9 Aust Div twelve Mitchells bombed enemy dumps in wooded areas 561849 to 566848 and 567848 to 568848 and also at WANDOKAI.

Five Marauders accurately bombed a suspected battalion area near KANSARUA (474961). 25½ tons of bombs were dropped and two large explosions seen in the target areas with columns of smoke rising to 1000 ft.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER. Thirty-eight Liberators and ten Mitchells again bombed targets in the CAPE GLOUCESTER and SAG SAG areas. 95 tons of bombs were dropped. Some explosions and a large number of small fires were seen.

(c) BORGEN BAY. (ref map WESTERN NEW BRITAIN, 4 miles to 1 inch).

Twenty-two Liberators and twenty-four Mitchells bombed dumps along the coast of BORGEN BAY from SILIMATI POINT (XM7492) to NATAMO (XM7487). 111 tons of bombs were dropped and some large fires seen.

(d) ARAWA. Thirty-one Bostons conducted barge sweeps and bombing and strafing missions along the coast east of ARAWA. One coastal gun is reported destroyed and one probably destroyed. A number of huts were left burning. 18 tons of bombs were dropped.

(e) RABAUL. During the early morning eighteen Beauforts bombed dispersal areas and strips at VUNAKANAU. All bombs were seen to hit the target area. 15 tons of bombs were dropped.

(f) ALEXISHAFEN. Thirty-four Mitchells bombed the strips and dispersal areas with 26 tons of bombs. Bombs were seen to fall amongst grounded aircraft and caused many explosions and fires. One Mitchell was shot down by AA fire.

3. AIR - ENEMY.

FINSCHHAFFEN

(a) At 0400 hrs 18 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped six bombs in the sea off SCARLET BEACH.

(b) At 0340 hrs 19 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped 5 bombs along the coast south of LAKONA causing slight casualties.

(c) At 0430 hrs 19 Dec three enemy aircraft dropped bombs in the sea off SCARLET BEACH.

PART II

4. ENEMY INTENTIONS: 12 Nov 43.

The following extracts are taken from the LAKONA Garrison Unit "Defence Plan" dated 12 Nov 43 and clearly show that the commander's main preoccupation at that time was the likelihood of an allied landing to cut his L of C.

"The LAKONA Garrison Unit will maintain the important defensive positions south of MASAWENG R and will make every effort to determine the enemy's plan to land."

"We are striving not only to destroy beforehand enemy plans and to eliminate enemy torpedo boats, which fire at will, but we are endeavouring to maintain this place as a stronghold against an enemy landing and to preserve it as a key point from which the main force of the div can attack or counter-attack."

There follow instructions for the establishment of coast watching posts to observe and report all movements of enemy ships and aircraft from which a deduction as to the enemy plan to land may be made. Guns and MGs were to be sited for beach defence and each Defence Unit was also ordered to construct dummy positions and to take other measures of deception so as to make the enemy think that a landing would be difficult.

ATIS Spot Report 176)

Signed at 2130 hrs

V. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

1A(1) J
1A(2)
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 71

(Information from 2000L/18 Dec to 2000L/19 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN & ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps MASAWENG R WEST and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25000).

On 18 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde continued its advance up the coast and in the afternoon forced a crossing of MASAWENG R. At 0900 hrs B and D Coys 29/46 Bn supported by artillery attacked and captured the enemy positions at the creek from 585803 to 586804. The two companies then continued to move forward, mopping up stragglers. In the meantime C Coy advanced from 588799 and at 1330 hrs occupied the south bank of MASAWENG R near the mouth, while B Coy pushed across difficult country and reached the river at 580807. At 1500 hrs the battalion succeeded in crossing the river and secured the beach to the north. At last light the dispositions were: C Coy at 584810, B Coy in the huts at 575810, D Coy at 584804, A Coy at 578806 and Bn HQ at 583807. Up till 1330 hrs three 75mm guns, one 37mm gun, two flame throwers, one 81mm mortar, one HMG and many other items of equipment had been captured, but the count of enemy dead in the sector had not been completed.

Further south the enemy withdrew during the night from 580793 and in the morning A Coy 22 Bn and D Coy 37/52 Bn occupied the position. B Coy 22 Bn patrolled the south bank of SANGA R to 581784 and then crossed to the north bank and went back to 586789. They discovered one LMG and a small mortar in a former enemy bivouac area at 585786. At last light C Coy with eight tanks was at 585800, B Coy at 588796, A Coy at 580792, and Bn HQ at 588792. During the day 37/52 Bn moved to the high ground between SANGA R and MASAWENG R and at last light D Coy was at 583800, C Coy at 579797, A Coy at 576796, B Coy at 583797 and Bn HQ at 585794.

In 20 Bde sector the Bde HQ moved forward to 613768 and 2/17 Bn was disposed as follows: Bn HQ at 592786, A Coy at 593783, B Coy at 595786, C Coy at 592776 and D Coy at 587783. A PIB patrol to 585755 found 3 dead Japs and some 75mm ammunition but saw no movement.

On the left in the 26 Bde sector 2/4 Cav(Commando) Sqn transferred its HQ to MERIKEO (477730) and patrols to 476737 and 488733 saw no movement. The OP south of ZAGAHEMI reported that 12 Japs are holding a position on the track south of the village. A 2/23 Bn patrol NE from BAZULUO to the garden at 542734 found no enemy. D Coy 2/24 Bn moved to 566727 and a patrol from the battalion made contact with the PIB patrol at 589758.

5 AUST DIV

(ref map BOANA 1 inch to 1 mile).

One Jap, who escaped from the ANGAU patrol on 17 Dec, was captured in the LUMBAIP area (600669) on 18 Dec.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps DUMPU, MT OTTO and URIGINA 1 inch to 1 mile).

On 18 Dec further extensive patrolling in the KESAWAI area and towards SOLU R was carried out without contact being made with the enemy. 2/6 Cav(Commando) Sqn is now established on the 5500 feature (6363) and is carrying out local patrols.

2. SEA - OWN

(a) REISS POINT

On night 18/19 Dec our PT boats sank six Type B barges and destroyed two 80-100 ft barges and one Type B barge on the beach at REISS POINT. All these barges were moving north empty.

(b) WALINGAI

Off WALINGAI our PT boats sank one loaded Type B barge south bound.

SECRET

PART I (Contd)

3. AIR - OWN

(a) HUON PENINSULA. In the morning twelve Bostons in support of 9 Aust Div bombed and strafed a bivouac area at 346126 (ref map SIALUM - 1/25,000), and also strafed from a minimum altitude the coastal track from KELANOA to NUZEN, starting six grass fires. Two bombs were also dropped on the edge of the lake at 319137 causing a small explosion and a column of black smoke. 5 tons of bombs were dropped.

Ten Mitchells also in support of 9 Aust Div bombed and strafed a barge off-loading point and suspected dump area at river mouth just south of NUZEN. 6 tons of bombs were dropped.

Six Airacobras conducted barge sweeps along the RAI coast between 1715 and 1835 hrs 18 Dec and again from 0730 to 0900 hrs 19 Dec. During the first sweep camp fires at PESCHEL PT were strafed and our aircraft later intercepted and shot down an enemy bomber.

(b) MADANG. At 0930 hrs twenty-four Mitchells and nine Marauders bombed the runway and dispersal areas. Forty-three tons of bombs were dropped. Our aircraft were engaged by heavy and accurate AA fire and six aircraft were holed.

(c) CAPE GLOUCESTER. From 0900 hrs till 1607 hrs one hundred and two Liberators, forty-six Mitchells and nine Marauders concentrated on targets in the area. Most of the 413 tons of bombs fell in the target area. Many explosions were seen and the whole of the target area was covered in clouds of smoke.

(d) DELAYED REPORTS. On 16 and 17 Dec seven Beaufighters and two Bostons made barge sweeps along the north and south coasts of NEW BRITAIN. Four barges were bombed and destroyed. One Beaufighter was reported overdue.

4. AIR - ENEMY

During night 18/19 Dec there was some enemy air activity over the 9 Aust Div area, but no details are yet available.

PART II

5. ENEMY MOVES

On 14 Dec, 3 barges (1 80 ft long and 2 50 ft long) two miles west of SAIDOR heading for BCGADJIM were strafed by our aircraft. The large barge was crowded with personnel and the smaller ones contained personnel and stores. Several Japs were killed.

COMMENT:

The above westward movement of personnel is unusual. Details are lacking, but the move may be connected with the evacuation of wounded. The reference to stores in the smaller barges, however, suggests otherwise, and one remote possibility is that the move is a continuation of the "rearward movement" of HQ 20 Div referred to in 2 Aust Corps Int Report No 68 para 3(c).

Signed at 2225 hrs.

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Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 70

(Information from 2000L/17 Dec to 2000L/18 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. AIR - OWN (18 Dec)

(a) HUON PENINSULA. About 0900 hrs eleven Bostons bombed and strafed a dump area at KANOKI. Bombing was accurate and one explosion and a column of black smoke was seen. 6 tons of bombs were dropped and forty-four strafing passes were made.

A further twelve Bostons bombed and strafed the area south of WALINGAI dropping 5 tons of bombs, but no results were observed.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER. Twenty-five Liberators supported by thirty-four Mitchells and twelve Marauders accurately bombed dumps about two miles east of No 1 strip. 167 tons of bombs were dropped.

(c) BORGEN BAY. Twenty-five Mitchells carried out a bombing and strafing mission on stores, personnel and dumps along the coast of BORGEN BAY. Twenty-six tons of bombs were dropped.

(d) CAPE HOSKINS. Thirty-seven Liberators bombed the strip and dispersal areas at CAPE HOSKINS. All crews reported bombs in the target area and that the strip was made unserviceable. 127 tons of bombs were dropped.

(e) INTERCEPTION. (ref strat maps NEW BRITAIN, 4 miles to 1 inch).

At 1120 hrs an enemy force of twenty-five fighters flying SE were intercepted by sixteen Lightnings near CAPE RAOULT (XN2796) and three were shot down. One of our planes was lost in combat and another by collision with one of our own aircraft.

2. LAND-OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG AND FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000)

On 17 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde advanced north from LAKONA across SANGA R. At 0900 hrs A Coy 29/46 Bn supported by a heavy artillery concentration on enemy posts on the north bank crossed the river at 590792 and attacked these positions. After sharp fighting the enemy were driven out and one HMG and several LMGs were captured. On the left flank D Coy also crossed the river at 587792 but at 1515 hrs both companies after advancing to 588800 were shelled by a 75 mm gun from 585804. The gun was silenced by our counter-battery fire. Enemy were later discovered near the creek at 586803 and 585801. 17 enemy are known to have been killed in this sector during the day. At last light the dispositions of 29/46 Bn were, A Coy 587801, D Coy 586799, C Coy 588799 and B Coy with Bn HQ at 588795.

Meanwhile at 0700 hrs B Coy 22 Bn moved west along the south bank of SANGA R to 587788 against opposition. At 0800 hrs C Coy supported by MMGs cleared the pocket at 593790 on the coast near CAPE SIBIDA. The enemy had till then been resisting strongly at this point. 34 enemy dead were counted and others were seen to fall over the cliff face into the sea. Our troops captured one 81 mm mortar, six small mortars, one HMG and many rifles. A Coy moved west from 592790 and ambushed and killed 7 enemy at 584793. They later encountered strong enemy opposition at 582792. At 1700 hrs D Coy 37/52 Bn moved up to support A Coy 22 Bn and after heavy fighting both companies were in close contact with the enemy at 583794 at last light. HQ 22 Bn were then at 586792 with C Coy at LAKONA, D Coy at 588792 and B Coy at 587788. B Coy 37/52 Bn moved to 581778 and upon sighting small enemy parties in the garden at 580779 engaged them with mortar fire. At last light C Coy 37/52 Bn was at 588784, A Coy at 587778 and Bn HQ at 593780. One platoon from 2/2 MG Bn with SMGs killed 13 enemy in a cave in the cliff at LAKONA without loss to themselves.

SECRET

2. LAND-OWN AND ENEMY Contd.

In 20 Bde area a 2/13 Bn patrol from 600771 to the NW saw no movement. B Coy 2/15 Bn moved to 599787 and 2/17 Bn also moved forward, but left a standing patrol at the track junction 587747. At last light HQ 2/17 Bn and D Coy were at 599777, C Coy at 592778 and A and B Coys at 607776 and 610772 respectively.

In 24 Bde sector a patrol from 2/32 Bn moved to 570728 and found that this area had apparently been the site of a large Japanese HQ. There were also indications that horses or mules had been used in the vicinity.

On 17 Dec an advanced party of 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn reached MERIKBO (478730).

5 AUST DIV

(ref map BOANA 1 inch to 1 mile).

On 17 Dec an ANGAU patrol killed 4 enemy near LUMBAIP (600669). One escaped without equipment.

7 AUST DIV

(ref map URIGINA, 1 inch to 1 mile).

A two-day patrol from 2/25 Bn to SOLU R reported on 17 Dec that no enemy had been seen.

Comment - The route taken by the patrol and the point at which it reached the SOLU R are not reported. It is thought however that the patrol probably moved along the main track to KOROPA (464732). If this is so it appears that the enemy has withdrawn from KESAWAI I (483690) where they were reported to be dug in on 12 Dec. Such a withdrawal is consistent with Tac/R reports on 16 Dec. (See 2 Aust Corps Int Report 69).

Signed at 2205 hrs

Shanahan
Lt-col
GS

1741
181
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 69

(Information from 2000L/16 Dec to 2000L/17 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

In the coastal sector heavy and prolonged fighting took place around LAKONA during 16 Dec. At 0750 hrs a patrol from 22 Bn to the west found an enemy position at 591791 and remained in contact until 1225 hrs, when A Coy with mortar and MMG support drove the enemy back after a bitter engagement. B Coy then advanced to 592790 to support A Coy, which was still in close contact with the enemy at last light. Meanwhile D Coy maintained pressure on the enemy, who had been cut off at 594791, but the enemy resisted tenaciously till late afternoon. Our tanks were unable to cross the flooded creek at 596787 until 1730 hrs, but then moved forward/supported an attack by C Coy on the position. The enemy, who resisted desperately, were dug in on a series of small ridges which the tanks and infantry had to reduce one by one in the face of intense MG fire. In a stubborn fight at least 30 enemy were killed and the remainder were slowly driven back and finally jumped over the cliff face on to the rocks below, where at last light the remnants were being engaged with grenades and small arms fire. During the day 37/52 Bn moved west to occupy the high ground in area 5878 overlooking SANGA R, and at last light were disposed C Coy at 582778, A Coy 589771, D Coy 587784 and B Coy at 585777. 29/46 Bn remained in Bde reserve at 598785. Further south a PIB patrol ambushed and wiped out a party of 12 Japs moving west at 577758 and captured 2 LMGs and some rifles. The same patrol observed 18 Japs with full packs and rifles also moving west at 581759. Several small enemy parties, which were seen moving north with full packs at the mouth MASAWENG R, were shelled by our artillery, and later casualties were observed being carried to an enemy medical post at 581815.

In 20 Bde area B Coy 2/15 Bn moved forward from COCONUT Beach to 608777. A patrol from 2/13 Bn west to 59 Easting Grid saw no movement but captured a 20mm twin-barrel AA gun and ammunition at 605758. D Coy 2/13 Bn relieved C Coy 37/52 Bn at 600772.

In 26 Bde sector C and D Coys 2/24 Bn supported by artillery and mortars forced the enemy to withdraw from a position at 571735 and then advanced along a razorback ridge to the village at 575740. A patrol from 2/23 Bn covered a wide area north of WAREO to 74 Northing Grid but saw no movement.

During the day our artillery fired 2500 rounds in support of 4 Bde and in addition engaged enemy guns at 584807 and 590793.

At first light 17 Dec 29/46 Bn after an artillery concentration moved up to SANGA R at 589791 and it is reported that A Coy forced a crossing at 589793.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

Tac R patrols on 16 Dec found that enemy activity in the KESAWAI area was on a small scale, and it is considered possible that there are fewer enemy in this area than was at first believed. Air reconnaissance during the day stated that there was no movement on the 5800 feature at 5667, which had been previously reported occupied by the enemy. A patrol from 2/2 Pnr Bn through GUSAP saw no enemy. Active patrolling by 25 Bde was continued, but no contact was made. A patrol from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sen reported that the villages URIGINA No 1 (384853) and No 2 (381839) were not occupied by the enemy.

SECRET

PART I (Contd)

2. AIR - OWN

(a) CAPE GLOUCESTER. Twenty-two Liberators bombed A¹ positions and dumps near No 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Clouds obscured observation of results but bombs were reported to have fallen in the target area.

Ten Mitchells bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas and dumps at TARGET HILL on the western extremity of BORGEN BAY.

(b) HUON PENINSULA. Nine Mitchells accurately bombed enemy dump areas at NAMBARIWA.

A further twenty-nine Mitchells unable to locate targets owing to weather returned to base.

(c) INTERCEPTION.

Eight Thunderbolts intercepted an enemy formation approaching ARAWE and destroyed seven bombers and two fighters without loss.

Sixteen Lightnings on fighter patrol in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area destroyed one enemy fighter as it was taking off from No 2 strip.

(d) DELAYED REPORTS. (ref strat maps NEW IRELAND and NEW BRITAIN 4 miles to 1 inch).

During the period 13 - 15 Dec Beaufighters and Bostons carried out seven early morning barge sweeps along the north and south coasts and also strafed strips and dispersal areas at BORPOP (YB 5376). Twenty-four aircraft were involved. Three camouflaged barges at VALOKA (near Cape HOSKINS, XO 9997) were strafed and badly damaged.

ENEMY II

3. ENEMY DEFENCES. (ref map FORTIFICATION POINT, 1/25000).

Tac R reports state that there are signs of considerable movement through the garden at 571809 and that the track from LAKONA to HUBIKA appears to be much used. There are no signs, however, of any new defences south of FORTIFICATION Point, but a track not previously seen runs from 583819 to 570822. Track activity was also seen near NAMBARIWA, KELANO, KANOMI and WALINGAI.

4. ENEMY OOB.

It is reported that III Bn 115 Regt and part of 14 Fd Arty Regt have been identified at ARAWE on 15 Dec.

COMMENT: It is known that elements of 51 Div were left in NEW BRITAIN, when the main force moved to NEW GUINEA. A captured map shows that I Bn 14 Fd Arty Regt was located near TULUVU at the beginning of June 43. However, both 115 Regt and 14 Fd Arty Regt were certainly at LAE and SALAMAU from June to Sep 43, and both suffered very heavy casualties. It appears, therefore, that these units have been reformed from the remnants who escaped together with considerable drafts from their depots.

Signed at 2215 hrs.

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Lt-col
GS.

1A(1)
1A(2)
Sgt Roberts.
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 68

(Information from 2000L/15 Dec to 2000L/16 Dec 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref. maps SATELBERG AND FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

After heavy fighting throughout 15 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde captured the village of LAKONA in the late afternoon. C and D Coys 22 Bn with artillery support attacked a strongpost at 595789 held by about 70 of the enemy, and after severe fighting pushed them back to near CAPE SIBIDA (594791). At 1700 hrs C Coy occupied LAKONA and D Coy reached 595790. In the meantime A Coy from 590784 moved north along the creek against enemy opposition and pushed through to its mouth at 592791, where they completed the enclosure of the enemy at CAPE SIBIDA. Some enemy, attempting to withdraw across the sandbar of SANGA R, were engaged by A Coy and by artillery fire and suffered heavy casualties. Further south A Coy 37/52 Bn supported by mortars and MMGs at first light attacked about 50 enemy dug in at 595773 and after a fierce engagement in which 20 enemy were killed, the position was taken at 1000 hrs. After mopping up A Coy moved forward to 589771. D Coy with MMGs joined B Coy on the high ground astride the track at 592777 and patrols to the west observed small parties of enemy moving north on the track at 584777 and 582770. These were engaged by our artillery. Fighting patrols from C Coy eliminated the enemy pocket at 595777, killing 12 Japs. After being relieved by 2/15 Bn, the 29/46 Bn moved into Bde reserve at 600784. Considerable numbers of enemy moving north on the track at 586824 were shelled by our artillery. At 1800 hrs 20 enemy moving south in the defile at 585817 were also shelled and many casualties are believed to have been inflicted. Heavy rain during the day caused flooding of most of the creeks and our tanks were unable to cross the creek at 596787.

In 20 Bde area, 2/15 Bn less one Coy relieved 29/46 Bn near KILIGIA BEACH, while B Coy is protecting COCONUT BEACH (616763). A patrol from 2/13 Bn south of SOWI R to 59 Easting Grid saw no movement. C and D Coys 2/17 Bn moved to 615753 and 610755 respectively. A platoon ambush party at the track junction 587747 saw no movement but found two dead Japs.

In 26 Bde sector, D Coy 2/24 Bn moving NE along the track reached 569735 and an enemy position was found on the narrow saddle at 571736. The enemy was subjected to artillery and mortar fire. Patrols from 2/23 Bn north of WAREO to 73 Northing Grid saw no movement.

During the day our artillery engaged enemy moving at 585793, a suspected troop concentration at 584817 and enemy positions at 575742 and 576740. Our mortars also fired on enemy at 585773 and 591773. At 2000 hrs an enemy gun at 590793 shelled KILIGIA, but was silenced by our counter-battery fire. During night 15/16 Dec our guns harassed enemy in the defile at 585817 between the steep hillside and the sea.

At first light 16 Dec the enemy was still holding CAPE SIBIDA, but our troops were attacking in this area as a preliminary to the main advance up the coast.

7 AUST DIV

(ref. maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 15 Dec, one Coy 2/2 Pioneer Bn occupied HERALD HILL (646600). 2/27 Bn relieved 2/14 Bn and was disposed with one Coy at TOM'S POST (743627), one Coy less one platoon near KUMBARUM, one platoon at SAM'S POST (784578) and the remainder of the battalion in reserve. 2/25 Bn found 164 weapon pits in the area 5265. At 1140 hrs Tac/R of the BOGADJIM RD showed that bridges 1 to 13 inclusive had been washed away by flood waters and that the road near NANZANRAI (560819) was blocked by landslides in about 15 places.

SECRET1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY Contd

It was completely washed away at many other points. Air reconnaissance during the day also showed a small enemy party digging in on the 5800 feature at 5667, and they were accurately shelled by our artillery. Reconnaissance of the enemy L of C through KETOBA (448765) showed that this track was still being heavily used.

2. AIR - OWN (16 Dec)

(a) HUON PENINSULA. In support of 9 Aust Div ten Mitchells accurately bombed a dump and bivouac area at SIO.

Nine Marauders also attacked a bivouac area and dump at KELANOA, the majority of bombs falling in the target area. In all a total of 28 tons of bombs were dropped on the targets.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER (ref strat maps NEW BRITAIN, 4 miles to 1 inch). Villages and dump areas from DORF POINT (XM5694) to CAPE GLOUCESTER were bombed and strafed by thirty-eight Liberators. 121 tons of bombs were dropped and 1315 rounds expended. Target areas were covered in dust and smoke and several fires were observed.

Six unidentified aircraft were seen, but no interception was attempted.

Final reports of four other squadrons of Liberators on the same target are not yet available.

(c) ARAVE. Nineteen Mitchells successfully carried out supply-dropping missions to ground troops at ARAWE.

(d) INTERCEPTION. Thirty-two Lightnings in two groups of 16 intercepted an enemy force of 9 medium bombers and 20 to 25 fighters moving towards ARAWE. In the ensuing engagement 9 enemy aircraft were shot down without loss to our aircraft.

A preliminary report indicates that 6 more enemy aircraft were destroyed during an interception over FINSCHHAFFEN, but no details are yet available.

(e) DELAYED REPORT.

RABAU. During night 14/15 Dec fourteen Beauforts bombed the strips and dispersal areas at VUNAKANAU and TOBERA. 13 tons of bombs and 450 lbs of incendiaries were dropped but clouds prevented observation of results. A further ten aircraft failed to reach the target due to weather. One aircraft failed to return and is presumed lost.

PART II3. ENEMY OOB

(a) A captured 79 Regt OO dated 11 Nov '43 states that CO 20 Tpt Regiment would attach the FURUKAWA battalion to his command and that this force was to be the KANOMI defence unit with main body at KANOMI and a detachment at AGO.

Applabanda
Real army
Comment. The FURUKAWA Bn is probably the reformed I Bn 80 Regt.

The use of the 20 Tpt Regt in a coast defence role shows that that as early as 11 Nov the enemy was nervous about his exposed ocean flank. It was previously known that I Bn 80 Regt had this task, but the use of 20 Tpt Regt in addition is remarkable, especially in view of the heavy supply requirements.

(b) 9 Aust Div report that "other documents" show that the QF Gun Coy of 79 Regt had three guns on 13 Nov and that on the previous day it was to move one of them to KANOMI, one to LAKONA and was apparently to leave one on the BONGA-WAREO track.

Comment. This latter may have been the 37 mm gun captured on 14 Dec at 600785.

(c) A captured diary contains the statement that 20 Div was to withdraw to LAKONA by 10 Dec and to proceed to the rear. It appears from the use of the character for "Transport" that the Div HQ were not required to move on foot.

Signed at 2220 hrs

Handwritten signature
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 67

(Information from 2000L/14 Dec to 2000L/15 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

On 14 Dec a slight advance against increased resistance was made in the coastal sector and our troops are now less than 200 yds from LAKONA. D Coy 22 Bn launched an attack against the enemy on the west bank of the creek at 596787 which was held by about 50 enemy. Five Japs were killed and the remainder driven back. The Coy then advanced along the coast to 595789 where a strong enemy position was encountered along the west bank of another creek. C Coy then moved up to 595788 in support of D Coy. Meanwhile A Coy made a bayonet attack against the enemy dug in at 595786, captured the position and by last light had advanced west to 590784. B Coy cleared an enemy pocket at 600785 killing 20 Japs, and capturing one 37mm gun and several LMGs. The rearguard coy of 37/52 Bn, after being subjected to enemy MG and mortar during night 13/14 Dec at 600772, attacked 50 Japs, killed 9 and drove the rest towards the west. The Coy then advanced to 598772 and found further enemy positions at 597773. A patrol found strong positions at 594772 and 595777 which were held by at least 200 of the enemy. B Coy advanced to a point astride the track 592777. At 1530 hrs a party of about 80 enemy were observed moving north on the track at 593768 (?) but no contact was made with B Coy. D Coy at last light, was at 598778. 29/46 Bn moved into the Bde reserve at 607779. At 0915 hrs and again at 1300 hrs, enemy mortars near 589768 harassed the area 597774. Our arty then heavily engaged the suspected position. Considerable enemy movement was seen near the mouth MASAWENG R and parties crossing the river in both directions were shelled. 2/13 Bn took over responsibility for the defence of KILIGIA beach. A patrol was 2/17 Bn moving towards the track junction 587747 reached 595750 by last light.

In 26 Bde sector C Coy 2/24 Bn made two further attempts to outflank the enemy position at 567733 but were held up by the precipice. Two platoons supported by mortars then made a frontal attack. The enemy were dug in on a razor back 10 yds wide. Our troops advanced by fire and movement and after an hour's hard fighting drove the enemy back with numerous casualties. At last light A Coy was at 564728, B Coy at 563727, C Coy at 567734 and D Coy at 565732. A 2/23 Bn patrol found the enemy still at 541733. A long range patrol from 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn reached MOLOLO (392793 ref map 1 inch to 1 mile) without sighting any enemy. The patrol set out for ZAGAHEMI 432848 at 0630 hrs 15 Dec. It was reported that our carrier lines were attacked by hostile natives with spears at a village 391788 but no details are available.

Our arty supported 4 Bde and shelled targets at LAKONA at 589781, 573733, 589768 and enemy movement across the mouths of the SANGA R at 588792 and the MASAWENG R at 584808. Early on 15 Dec 22 Bn advanced against opposition towards LAKONA. The enemy were still occupying a position on the creek bed at 595773, and 37/52 Bn were moving forward to attack it. During the night 14/15 Dec enemy guns north of FORTIFICATION Pt fired shells into the sea off the beach at 610775 and 75mm guns at 589793 shelled 600785 until neutralized by our counter-battery fire.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 14 Dec patrolling activity was continued, but the main enemy strength was not discovered. A patrol from 2/2 Pnr Bn moved from MUNGO (865630) to GURIA (882596) and reported the area clear of enemy.

SECRET

2. SEA - OWN

On night 13/14 Dec our PT boats sank one 30 to 40 ft barge in MARIEN Hbr. It is now ascertained that the nine barges sunk or destroyed on night 12/13 Dec were all fully loaded.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) ARAVE. At 0717 hrs, in close support of the allied landing this morning at ARAWE, 5 Mitchells accurately bombed and strafed AMALUT Plantation on radio call from ground troops. Aircraft reported method of denoting ground targets was very successful.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER. At approx 1430 hrs 23 Liberators attacked targets in vicinity of No 1 and No 2 strips. 95 tons of bombs were dropped and target area covered in bomb bursts. Three grounded enemy aircraft were probably destroyed. There was no interception. No reports are yet to hand of the attack by a further four squadrons of Liberators on the same target.

(c) INTERCEPTION. Four Lightnings intercepted and destroyed one enemy aircraft at 1115 hrs between COMMODORE Bay and MONTAGUE Hbr. Enemy aircraft appeared to be of a new type. One enemy force approaching ARAWE was driven away by our aircraft without engaging.

A second force of 30 Zekes and 12 Bettys was driven off when intercepted by 4 Lightnings at 1800 hrs between ARAWE and FINSCHAFEN. There were no losses by either side.

During the landing at ARAWE, 20/25 enemy dive-bombers attacked landing craft and beachheads. Two enemy aircraft were definitely destroyed by our AA and one probably destroyed.

Four Lightnings sighted four enemy aircraft near TALASEA but did not engage, and later reported a probable aircraft-carrier in SIMPSON Hbr.

(d) SIGHTINGS. One Liberator on armed recce sighted nine merchant vessels at position 02.40S, 140.50E. Two 1,000-lb bombs were dropped near a 5500/7000-ton vessel with no apparent damage. Five enemy aircraft attempted interception over the convoy, but were driven off without loss.

(e) DELAYED REPORTS. During night 13/14 Dec 30 Beauforts accurately bombed strips and dispersal areas at LAKUNIA. Bombing was reported as excellent and several large fires and many small fires, thought to be burning aircraft, were observed. One large explosion was seen at NW end of strip. Smoke from target area was visible for 70 miles. A total of 24 tons of bombs was dropped.

Signed at 2225 hrs.

Snood
Lt-col
GS.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 66

(Information from 2000L/13 Dec to 2000L/14 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

On 13 Dec the 4 Aust Inf Bde advance NW along the coastal track brought our foremost elements to within 300 yards of LAKONA. In the morning, D Coy 22 Bn drove the enemy from 606784 and advanced to 601785 where about one platoon of the enemy was encountered. Ten enemy were killed and D Coy then by-passed the position and advanced to the creek at 598787. Here the enemy were strongly holding the west bank, so were heavily shelled. A Coy advanced west from 603782 and found an enemy pocket at 598783. This position was by-passed and at 1630 hrs the company reached 596783, and then moved forward in an attempt to cut the track at 593785. B Coy attacked the enemy by-passed at 598783 and after a sharp encounter, in which eight enemy were killed, captured the position. The company, supported by tanks, then attacked the enemy at 601785, and this post was also taken. In the meantime C Coy had advanced to 596787 in support of D Coy. Further south, A and C Coys 37/52 Bn drove an enemy party off the high ground at 600772 and occupied the feature. After being relieved by 2/13 Bn, the remainder of 37/52 Bn moved forward and at last light B Coy was at 606782 and D Coy at 607779.

In 20 Bde sector 2/13 Bn moved north from GUSIKA and relieved 37/52 Bn south of SOWI R. At last light, the battalion was occupying positions in the area 6076. A patrol from 2/17 Bn west in 5974 saw no enemy movement.

In 26 Bde sector, the enemy held on to the knoll on the razor-back ridge at 567733. Reconnaissance by 2/24 Bn failed to find a way to outflank the position owing to the precipitous nature of the country. The enemy position was subjected to artillery and mortar fire throughout the day. 2/23 Bn patrols to 534727 and 554728 saw no movement.

During the day our artillery fired 1150 rounds in support of the 4 Bde advance and shelled targets at LAKONA, 592790, the track junction at 589793, and a bivouac area at 586787. Enemy moving on the track at 568735 were also shelled.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 13 Dec there was no material change in the situation in this area. Fighting patrols from 25 Bde maintained contact with the enemy near KESAWAI and normal patrol activity was carried out in the Bde sector.

Tac/R A/C at 1500 hrs reported that small enemy parties were seen on the 5800 feature in 5667.

Further details of the enemy attack on the two forward companies of 2/25 Bn are now available. Between 0400 hrs and 0545 hrs 13 Dec the enemy, estimated strength 400, made three determined attacks on our positions, but were repulsed. Enemy casualties were estimated at 100. Our casualties, previously reported as heavy, are now reported as five killed and seventeen wounded. The two companies were to move to the east bank of the EVAPIA R after last light.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 12/13 Dec our PT boats sank three type A, two type B and one 80/100 ft barges, off REISS POINT. In addition, three type A barges were destroyed when they attempted to beach. It is not known whether the barges were loaded.

SECRET

3. AIR - OWN

(a) ARAWA. Enemy occupied area and dumps in vicinity of CAPE MERKUS, PILELO IS, KUMBUN IS, ARAWA IS and along the isthmus known as ANALUT PLANTATION were thoroughly bombed and strafed by Liberators, Mitchells and Bostons between the hours of 0800 and 0900, 1000 to 1100, 1245 to 1400 and again at 1500L. In all seventy-one Bostons, sixty Mitchells and one hundred Liberators engaged in the attack and a total of 418 tons of bombs were dropped. The bombers were escorted by about 22 squadrons of fighter aircraft.

Bombing was extremely accurate the whole of the target areas being covered by bomb bursts resulting in clouds of smoke and dust. Several explosions were observed and columns of smoke from the target area were visible for 20 miles. A number of huts were destroyed and several fires seen. There was no enemy interception and all our planes returned undamaged.

(b) GASMATA. At approximately 0845 hrs nine Marauders and thirty-two Mitchells bombed the strip and dispersal areas at GASMATA. Two squadrons reported accurate bombing, the remainder of bombs falling in wooded area NW of target.

No observation was possible as target was covered by smoke. A total of sixty tons of bombs was dropped.

(c) HUON PENINSULA. In a barge sweep from SAIDOR to FORTIFICATION POINT, five Thunderbolts strafed one barge at LEPSIUS POINT and another near NEMAU and an enemy dump in vicinity of NOM PLANTATION.

DELAYED REPORTS. During the afternoon of 12 Dec, thirty-seven Kittyhawks accurately bombed and strafed GASMATA strip. 8½ tons of bombs were dropped and 1420 rounds expended on strafing. Direct hits were observed in the centre of the target causing a cloud of smoke visible for 20 miles.

4. AIR - ENEMY

FINSCHHAFFEN. At 0625 hrs 14 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped three bombs in the sea off SCARLET BEACH. No damage or casualties are reported.

Signed at 2210 hrs

SA Ford
was
Lt-col
GS

1254
1A,
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 65

(Information from 2000L/12 Dec to 2000L/13 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND-OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25000).

Further details of the advance by 4 Aust Inf Bde on 12 Dec in the coastal sector are now available. At first light A Coy 22 Bn pushed north from SOWI R and encountered enemy positions at 608778. The company, however, by-passed these positions and in an outflanking march reached 603782. D Coy then moved up, captured the position at 608778 and tried to advance along the track to 606783 but found an enemy stronghold estimated to be held by one company with HMGs and LMGs along the creek from 605784 to 604783. Meanwhile B and C Coys had moved up and at last light were at 606783 and 608778 respectively. Early in the day the tanks advanced with the infantry, but were held up at 608774, as the track was blocked by fallen timber. The tanks then moved to the west through the kunai and reached B Coy at 606783. Further south a 29/46 Bn patrol moved from 607770 to 601772 without seeing any movement. The battalion took over protection of the KILIGIA beachhead with A Coy at 608776 and D Coy at 608774. C Coy moved forward during the day to 613767 and B Coy to 608768. A Coy 37/52 Bn crossed SOWI R and occupied a position astride the track running along the north bank at 603766. B Coy moved to 600763 and patrolled the area 5976 south of SOWI R without seeing any movement. In this area a large enemy ammunition dump in the kunai containing a considerable quantity of ammunition, mines and prepared demolition charges was discovered.

On 12 Dec there was a general move forward by 20 Aust Inf Bde. 2/15 Bn moved to the area 6175 with A Coy at 614753, B Coy at 621751, C Coy at 618753 and D Coy at 610752. 2/17 Bn patrolled west in the area 5974 and reported it clear of Japs, but an abandoned position in the garden at 601745 was found to contain a number of enemy dead.

In 24 and 26 Bdes' sectors a patrol north to 73 northing grid saw no movement. More equipment, ammunition and mines were captured at an abandoned position at 581720. A Coy 2/24 Bn moved SW from 565728 and attacked the enemy at the track junction 564727. After heavy fighting lasting six hours in difficult country against an enemy deeply dug-in and resisting tenaciously, the position was captured at 1540 hrs and contact was made with C Coy at 563727; at least twenty-five enemy dead were counted and much equipment was captured. C Coy pushed through A Coy and advanced NE along the track to 565732 where a further enemy rearguard post was found at last light. A patrol from 2/23 Bn on the track north of WAREO clashed with small enemy parties at 548732, 541731 and 537728 and six enemy in all were killed. Our artillery strongly supported the advance in the coastal sector and during the day fired 1100 rounds on various targets, including LAKONA, 593789, 589793 and 586787 and also enemy moving along the track at 577742 and 568735.

The advance along the coast by 22 Bn continued at first light on 13 Dec but no details are available. Our artillery harassed enemy positions at 585786 and shelled dumps at 592790 and 589793.

It is reported that from 30 Nov to 11 Dec 343 enemy dead have been counted in the 9 Aust Div area and that the total from the original landing on 22 Sep is now 2356.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 12 Dec enemy artillery shelled 2/14 Bn area without causing damage or casualties. One company 2/2 Pnr Bn occupied the 2600 feature at 672610 with a small party at 648600.

SECRET

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY (Contd)

7 AUST DIV (Contd)

A patrol from 2/25 Bn moving to 505665 killed four and wounded two of the enemy. The patrol advanced further to 496674 where enemy were found to be dug in. Our troops attacked vigorously and it is believed that considerable casualties were inflicted. Another patrol to 507668 was attacked by the enemy supported by mortar fire and was forced to withdraw, but patrols along the RAMU R towards KESAWAI report no enemy seen. One troop of 2/6 Cav(Commando) Sqn has moved to 5500 feature at 635631. However, at 0115 hrs 13 Dec enemy attacked forward companies of 2/25 Bn and forced them to withdraw to 5365. A preliminary report states that the enemy attacked in considerable strength and that our casualties were heavy. Our artillery engaged a number of enemy targets. Tac R aircraft at 0900 hrs discovered that bridges 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 on the BOGADJIM Rd had been washed away by heavy floods and that the road between bridges 1 and 2 were under water.

2. AIR - OWN (13 Dec)

(a) NEW BRITAIN - LINDENHAFEN PLANTATION. Thirty-seven Liberators and twenty-four Mitchells, unable to get through to their primary targets at CAPE HOSKINS owing to weather, bombed dumps and enemy occupied areas at RING RING and LINDENHAFEN Plantations. Bombing was accurate and many large fires and one large explosion was caused. 143 tons of bombs were dropped.

(b) BOGADJIM ROAD. (ref map 2037 MADANG 4 miles to 1 inch). Between 0845 and 0945 hrs thirty-six Bostons bombed and strafed the BOGADJIM Rd and dumps at DAUMOINA, OLD YAULA, KWATO and AIYAU (WO5991) villages. 17 tons of bombs were dropped and the area was strafed but results were not observed.

(c) HUON PENINSULA. (ref map 2037 MADANG 4 miles to 1 inch). Between 0905 and 1000 hrs four Airacobras carried out a barge sweep along the coast from FORTIFICATION POINT to SAIDOR. Three Type A and seven other barges of various types were strafed and believed destroyed. The bridge over the YUPNA R (WP8857) south of WEBER POINT (WP8760) was also bombed and destroyed.

(d) INTERCEPTION. Twelve enemy fighters, when attempting to intercept our bombers over GASMATA, were engaged by the fighter escort. One enemy fighter was shot down without loss to our aircraft.

Signed at 2215 hrs.

J. Handerson
Lt-col
GS

4. SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 63

(Information from 2000L/11 Dec to 2000L/12 Dec 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

On 11 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde made marked progress along the coast against crumbling opposition and mopped up enemy parties in the KILIGIA area. Patrols were also pushed well north beyond the SOWI R. On the left flank in this sector our troops advanced to the high ground north of TUNOM R.

In 29/46 Bn area twenty-six enemy dead, as a result of the previous day's action, were counted. 22 Bn moved forward during the day and A Coy with one troop of tanks gained a bridgehead over the SOWI R at 608774. The remainder of the Battalion was then disposed D Coy at 612763, B Coy 613758 and C Coy at 618755. A patrol from A Coy then moved north and reached the Cape at 609783. From here the patrol went 300 yards west without seeing any Japs. Enemy troops occupying the high ground at 600773, were unable to impede either the construction of a crossing over the SOWI R or the unloading of supplies and ammunition from barges on COCONUT Beach (616764.) Meanwhile 37/52 Bn crossed the TUNOM R and seized the high ground on the north with A Coy at 607757, B Coy 609761, D Coy 605760 and C Coy 604755. Early in the morning A Coy ambushed 18 Japs and killed 5. Further south A and B Coys 2/17 Bn relieved C and D Coys 37/52 Bn, opposing the enemy at 603750 and 602747.

In 24 and 26 Bde sectors C Coy 2/32 Bn moved forward to 582724 and a patrol to the NE reported that there were many abandoned enemy positions at 584727. A patrol from 2/23 Bn to the track junction at 540733 found about twenty enemy with three LMGs. Two were killed and one wounded without loss to our troops and the enemy withdrew to the north. At 1530 hrs A Coy 2/24 Bn attacked the enemy position at 565728 from the south, penetrated his defences and inflicted casualties besides capturing some equipment. The position was occupied and at last light A Coy was at 565728, C and D Coys at 563728 and B Coy at FIOR. At 1900 hrs an enemy party withdrawing from the east were attacked by A Coy and destroyed. No details of this action are available.

During the day our artillery shelled enemy positions at 603773, 605770 and 603755, a suspected enemy OP at 601735 and enemy moving at 568735. Tac/R reports state that on 11 Dec there was increased track activity on the kunai spur between SOWI R and SANGA R, and that the bed of SANGA R was being used as a track. A late report stated that on 12 Dec 4 Bde is continuing to make good progress against scattered opposition. In the early afternoon forward troops of 22 Bn reached 605785. Our tanks are being delayed by trees across the track, but the engineers are clearing these behind the forward infantry. The beach at 608775 is reported to be suitable for landing craft.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 11 Dec in 21 Bde sector 2/2 Par Bn moved to the LAKES area (685582). Our positions in the Bde area were shelled intermittently throughout the day. In 25 Bde sector our artillery shelled enemy defences near KESAWAI and supported the active patrol activity of 2/25 Bn. One patrol ambushed a party of Japs at 508668 and inflicted six casualties. Other patrols operating along the RAMU R towards KESAWAI made no contact. A patrol from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn to KULAU (319078) reported that the village was occupied by about 100 enemy with an HMG in position for AA defence. The Sqn is now concentrated at FAITA (160817) with standing patrols at all likely river crossings and patrols forward to USINI (320915) and along the RAMU R.

SECRET

PART I Contd

1.
2. SEA - OWN

On night 11/12 Dec our PT boats sank three Type A barges one-quarter mile north of the SANGA R. One 70-ft enemy barge armed with a 20 mm gun escaped. Our craft were subjected to heavy fire from the shore by one 75 mm gun, four 20 mm guns and LMGs.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) INTERCEPTION. On 12 Dec eight Fitt-hawks on a fighter sweep in the GUSAP area encountered nine enemy bombers and fifteen fighters. In the ensuing engagement two enemy fighters and one bomber were destroyed without loss to our aircraft.

(b) DELAYED REPORTS. On 10 Dec thirteen Liberators bombed AA positions and dumps at CAPE GLOUCESTER, but clouds made detailed observation difficult. Fourteen Liberators unable to locate the primary targets at CAPE GLOUCESTER accurately bombed barge hideouts and dumps at NAMEAPIWA. One barge was destroyed and a number of fires started.

On 11 Dec twenty-seven Mitchells bombed the coastal area near BORGAN BAY. Several fires were seen as a result of the bombing, but results generally were not observed.

4. AIR - ENEMY

DUMPU area. At 0520 hrs 12 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped four bombs on 25 Bde area but caused neither damage nor casualties.

PART 2

5. ENEMY OOB

(a) A captured map showed I Bn 80 Regt in a coastal defence role in the KANOMI area. It was thought that this regt was possibly in this area, having been reformed after the SALAMAUA and LAE fighting. As it is certain that portion at least of II Bn 79 Regt was withdrawn from its coast defence role in the HUBIKA-LAKONA area, I Bn 80 Regt may have been moved south to meet the new threat to the enemy coastal positions by our drive north from GUSIKA. A captured document shows 7 Coy 26 Fd Arty Regt to be at KANOMI. This coy was also in LAE.

(9 Aust Div Int Sum No 25, dated 6 Dec)

Comment: It is quite possible "I Depct Bn" has been incorporated in the reformed I Bn 80 Regt.

(b) A document taken from a dead Jap states that the relief of 20. Engr Regt by 53 Indep Engr Regt was completed on 26 Nov.

(From 9 Aust Div Int Sum No 25, dated 6 Dec).

Signed at 1720 hrs

V. J. Anderson
Lt-col
GS.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 63

(Information from 2000L/10 Dec to 2000L/11 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

During 10 Dec in the coastal sector 4 Bde has advanced another 1000 yards and has captured KILIGIA (610773). In the morning A and B Coys 29/46 Bn supported by tanks moved north from the COCONUTS (about 6176) and by 1300 hrs had secured a bridgehead over an unnamed creek at 613767. At 1500 hrs A Coy with tank and artillery support attacked northward during a torrential downpour and after overcoming some enemy opposition captured KILIGIA. Scattered enemy remnants made an attempt at resistance but withdrew on the approach of our tanks. The SOWI R was reached at 609773. In the meantime B Coy moved west to the high ground at 609769 without any signs of enemy activity being apparent on the ridge. A Coy 37/52 Bn moved across the TUNOM R at 606756 and established itself astride the track running along the north bank. The remaining companies of the battalion were in contact with about one platoon of the enemy strongly dug-in at 604750 with HMGs and LMGs on the flanks at 602752 and 600746. These positions were engaged with mortar and artillery fire. A and B Coys 22 Bn cleared out the enemy pocket at 613757. It is estimated that one company of the enemy with deep dug-outs in the cliff faces had occupied this strongly developed position and in all the enemy lost 75 killed. Two HMGs and several LMGs were captured. The enemy, who were seen digging at 605770 and 603773, were shelled. Heavy rain fell during the day and materially hampered movement on the tracks. The good landing beach at 616763, which was captured 9 Dec, is now in use as a forward supply point.

In 24 and 26 Bde sectors the patrol from 2/32 Bn which was yesterday held up at 566727 made contact with the 2/24 Bn patrol at 568728 at 1015 hrs 10 Dec. The 2/32 Bn patrol is still in contact with the enemy astride the track at 566727. D Coy 2/32 Bn moved to 578722. A Coy 2/24 Bn attempted to outflank the enemy position at 564728 to the south, but were unsuccessful owing to the difficult terrain. The enemy are reported to be occupying all practicable approaches to the position from the east and west. The enemy posts were harassed throughout the day by mortar and shell fire. Except for one Jap at 548731, 2/23 Bn patrols north of WAREO saw no enemy. The long range patrol from 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn, which moved to JOANGENG (358756, ref map KULUNGUFU 1 inch to 1 mile) on 7 Dec, has returned to FASEO (383778). They found no enemy there, but natives report that a party of Japanese, including five officers, moved NE through the village on 7 Dec. On 10 Dec adv HQ 9 Aust Div moved to 633725. HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde is now at 621740 and 2/15 Bn is in the area 6273.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

During 10 Dec our patrols forward of the EVAPIA R made contact with Japanese patrolling from their main position on the ridge at 5169, but no material moves by the enemy have yet been disclosed. A party from 2/25 Bn which is now established on the EVAPIA R ambushed an enemy party at 505674 and inflicted 20 casualties and two companies are operating forward in the general areas 5265 and 5267. B Coy PIB at 610562 patrolled the north bank of the RAMU R to 500605 without making contact with the enemy. Enemy guns shelled a number of positions in 21 Bde area, but caused no damage. At 0015 hrs 11 Dec the enemy attacked 2/16 Bn standing patrol at 687606. Our troops launched a counter-attack with bayonets and the enemy were driven off. Casualties on both sides were light. A Tac R report of 10 Dec indicates that the BOGADJIM - YAULA Rd is clear with all bridges

PART I (Contd)

SECRET

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY (Contd)

7 AUST DIV (Contd)

intact. Five bridges, which had been damaged or demolished, have been completely reconstructed.

5 AUST DIV

An ANGAU report (reliability unknown) states that there is a patrol of 15 Japanese at NOGOBI village (location unknown but presumed to be north of WANTOAT). The report adds that the enemy patrol is using three mission natives as guides and that they have been engaged in espionage on behalf of the Japanese. The report is being investigated.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 10/11 Dec our PT boats sank two Type A barges and possibly damaged three more about one-quarter mile north of WALINGAI. The damaged barges made for the beach near this point. At the time of the attack the barges were moving empty on a northerly course. Our craft ^{were} engaged by heavy 40mm fire from the shore.

3. AIR - OWN (10 Dec)

(a) HUON PENINSULA. In support of 9 Aust Div eight Marauders and nine Mitchells bombed suspected dump areas near HUBIKA. The dump at 168134 (ref HUBIKA photomap) was accurately bombed, 12 tons of bombs falling in the target area. The bombing of the plantation at HUBIKA, however, was inaccurate and the majority of bombs fell in the water adjacent to the target.

(b) SIGHTINGS. On 10 Dec one Beaufort sighted and attacked a suspected submarine at 06.48 S, 150.25 E. Bombs were seen to fall within 20 feet of the target and later a large disturbance and patch of oil were observed on the surface. The submarine is believed damaged and possibly destroyed.

Signed at 7220 hrs.

E. Anderson
Lt-col,
GS

1A (1) 1A (2)

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 62

(Information from 2000L/9 Dec to 2000L/10 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000)

In the coastal sector enemy resistance along the TUNOM R still continues. On 9 Dec, A and B Coys 29/46 Bn on the right advanced against opposition from small enemy posts and secured a bridgehead over the river at 616764, where nine Japs were killed. B Coy also killed twelve enemy at 613757, and, after being relieved by B Coy 22 Bn at 613757, pushed on to 615759. The pocket in the creek bed at 613735, however, was not cleaned out and was subjected to mortar and MMG fire throughout the day. C Coy 29/46 Bn was relieved by A Coy 22 Bn at 612755 and then moved forward to 616759. Further to the west D Coy 33/52 Bn, which had forced a crossing of the river at 601751 on 8 Dec and had apparently withdrawn later, again crossed the TUNOM R at 602751 but met stiff enemy opposition. Nine of the enemy were killed but sheer cliffs prevented an advance to the high ground to the north, and the company again withdrew to the south bank of the river. Subsequently they moved to 604749 and the enemy position was then shelled. C Coy moved forward to 601746, but here also the difficult and precipitous terrain made a river crossing impracticable.

In 20 and 24 Bdes sector a patrol from 2/15 Bn made contact with 2/32 Bn at the track junction 578717 where there were numerous abandoned enemy positions. A 2/32 Bn patrol moving NW along the track from here in an endeavour to contact 2/24 Bn, was held up by enemy dug-in at 566727 and the position was then heavily shelled. 2/15 Bn is now concentrated at 604684.

In 26 Bde area A and C Coys 2/24 Bn were in close contact with the enemy throughout the day at 563727, where a strong enemy post covered the track junction. Enemy were seen to be moving both ways on the track to the NE and were engaged with artillery and mortar fire. One platoon 2/24 Bn moved SE through difficult country in an attempt to outflank the enemy position, and at last light were at 566726. Further west D Coy 2/24 Bn and B Coy 2/23 Bn drove the enemy from the high ground at 538718 and occupied BAZULUO, where a large enemy hospital had been recently evacuated. The enemy at 528716 were attacked from the rear at last light by a party from 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn moving up from ULUO. The enemy were taken by surprise, thrown into confusion and fled, and our troops occupied the position. Patrols from 2/23 Bn covered the tracks in 5472 and 5572 without seeing any movement. Few signs of recent activity were apparent in this area.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

The withdrawal of 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn less B and C Tps to MENE R was completed in good order and with few casualties. B and C Tps were in contact with the enemy near KOROPA (464732) but continued to make a gradual withdrawal to MENE R. It is estimated that there is at least one enemy battalion in the KESAWAI area. Two Coys 2/25 Bn are now established in the area 5562 and are carrying out local patrols but have not made contact with the enemy. To the west patrols from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn attacked enemy positions at ULILAI (345072), but were forced to withdraw by heavy enemy fire. SUMAU (388994) and TABABU (420963) were reported clear of enemy.

Tac/R reports from 9 Div state that the track from OLD YAULA to 545855 appears to be used by MT, and that there are signs of heavy use of the track as far as MATALOI No 1 (519828)

SECRET

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY Contd

It is reported that the enemy is employing natives as guides and is also using them to locate and report our dispositions.

2. SEA - OWN

(a) REISS POINT. On night 9/10 Dec our PT boats sank 2 Type B barges and destroyed 3 Type As four miles north of REISS POINT. The barges were on a northerly course.

(b) HARDENBERG POINT. On the same night our PT boats also sank 3 and destroyed one Type A barge and a larger one estimated at 100 feet long. The barges were lying to 150 yards off shore to the north of HARDENBERG POINT. All barges appeared to be empty. Our craft came under heavy 37 mm and 20 mm fire from the shore

3. AIR - OWN

BOGADJIM AREA

On morning 10 Dec eight Mitchells and nine Marauders bombed bridges 7 and 8 on the BOGADJIM Rd. Five bombing runs were made over the target but no direct hits were observed. Bombs fell within 50 feet of the bridges and in wooded area between the bridges. Twenty-four tons of bombs were dropped.

Twenty-two Mitchells accurately bombed the village, supply and bivouac areas near YOKOPI. Several large explosions were seen. Thirty-three tons of bombs were dropped.

4. AIR - ENEMY

(a) DUMPU. On night 9/10 Dec one enemy a/c dropped four or five bombs in 25 Bde area causing some damage and casualties. No further details are available.

(b) FINSCHHAFEN. At 1840 hrs 9 Dec two enemy a/c dive bombed and strafed the area about 621703. No damage or casualties have been reported.

Signed at 2230 hrs

Handwritten signature
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 61

(Information from 2000L/8 Dec to 2000L/9 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATIONSPOINT 1/25000).

In 4 Bde sector further progress has been made despite increasingly stubborn resistance by enemy rearguards. It now appears that at last light 7 Dec the forward troops had reached 615758 - not 615762 as previously reported. Early on 8 Dec D Coy 29/46 Bn made contact with a strong enemy position at 615759 and was temporarily held up. With artillery and mortar support, however, the company attacked in the afternoon and drove the enemy from this position, inflicting severe casualties. One 75mm gun, one HMG, several LMGs and other equipment were captured. Fighting patrols from C Coy surprised a large enemy party at 613758 and killed twenty-five. At last light 29/46 Bn less C Coy was at 616760 with C Coy at 609751. 37/52 Bn also pushed forward and occupied positions about 6074 on the high ground to the SW of 29/46 Bn, while D Coy of this battalion forced a crossing of the TUNOM R at 601751. In this advance the precipitous nature of the valley made progress difficult and slow. A little further west enemy were seen to be digging in at 601748 and 599750 and were heavily shelled. In addition, guns fired upon a party of about sixty enemy moving north from the COCO-NUTS about 6176 and it is believed that casualties were inflicted. During the day 22 Bn was relieved by 2/13 Bn and moved into brigade reserve at 618751.

In 24 Bde sector 2/32 Bn supported by artillery and mortar concentrations made simultaneous and converging attacks from the north and south on the enemy position on the 1800 hill at 579719 and stormed the feature. At last light the battalion was disposed as follows - A Coy 579719, B Coy 579717, C Coy 578715 and D Coy 579716.

Further to the west, in 26 Bde sector, A and B Coys 2/24 Bn moved along the track NE from WAREO, but met a strong enemy position covering the track junction at 564723. This position was then shelled and engaged with mortar fire. At last light about fifty enemy moving SW down the track were ambushed and many were killed. Meanwhile D Coy, moving west from WAREO, found the enemy at 537719. B Coy 2/23 Bn then moved forward in support and the two companies in a combined assault captured the position. In the sharp fighting near KUANKO from 4 to 7 Dec more than eighty enemy have now been counted.

(NOTE: It now appears that the 2/23 Bn captured WAREO at 0915 hrs 8 Dec - not, as stated in Int Report No 60, at 2000 hrs 7 Dec. The battalion began to move forward at first light on 8 Dec and was supported in its attack by mortar and HMG fire.)

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 8 Dec enemy patrol activity was on a greatly increased scale on our left flank and a thrust in strength has also developed against KESAWAI (482690) necessitating a general withdrawal of our screening troops. Simultaneously the enemy has attacked SE towards the 25 Bde front and has made some progress.

On 8 Dec on the extreme left a patrol from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn found enemy at AMINIK (402020) and ULILAI (345072), neither of which was formerly occupied by the enemy.

PART I (Contd)

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY (Contd)

Early in the day the enemy attacked our OP at 454775, but were driven off with casualties. During the morning, however, the enemy gained control of our L of C to ISARIBA (452747) and cut off one of our patrols in that area. At 2005 hrs 8 Dec HQ 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn at KESAWAI was surrounded, but fought its way out and withdrew SE towards the EVAPIA R. Further east a PIB standing patrol about 5567 was attacked in force at first light and withdrew after inflicting losses on the enemy. The enemy has also begun to prepare defences on the ridge about 5169, and Tac R reports this morning indicate that there at least 300 Japanese engaged in this work. During 8 Dec the forward areas held by 21 Bde were shelled by the enemy with guns believed to be of greater calibre than the 75mm type previously employed in this sector.

2. AIR - OWN (9 Dec)

- (a) HUON PENINSULA. Early in the morning nine Bostons bombed and strafed the coastal track from MASAWENG R mouth to WANDOKAI village. A number of buildings were destroyed and bombs were observed to fall in the target areas. Ten Mitchells bombed a barge offloading point and dumps at HUBIKA. Fifteen tons of bombs were dropped.
- (b) BORGEN BAY. Thirty-three Mitchells bombed and strafed dumps and bivouac areas in BORGEN Bay from a minimum altitude. Results were not observed.
- (c) CAPE RAOULT - REIN BAY. Eighteen Mitchells carried out a bombing and strafing mission on dumps, bivouac areas and AA positions from Cape RAOULT to REIN Bay.

DELAYED REPORTS - NEW BRITAIN AREA.

- (a) On 6 Dec twenty-one Kittyhawks bombed and strafed targets on WULAI Island near Cape HOSKINS. 47 bombs were dropped and 7,000 rds of ammunition were expended. One barge was strafed and burnt and several huts were destroyed.
- (b) On 7 Dec fifty Kittyhawks accurately bombed dump areas near GASKATA. Several fires were started.

PART II

3. ENEMY OOB

Rifle tabs taken from enemy killed during night 6/7 Dec at KETOBA (ref UDIGINA sheet 1 inch to 1 mile, 448766) belonged to 239 Regt. This is further evidence that some part at least of this regiment has been committed on the 7 Aust Div front. The first indication that part of 239 Regt was in the area was obtained on 16 Nov, when two similar tabs were found on Japanese rifles captured at AMINIK (ref BAGASIN sheet 1 inch to 1 mile, 400022) (See 2 Aust Corps Int Report No 48).

From this last identification it seems likely that the present strong thrust towards KESAWAI and the EVAPIA R is being made by 239 Regt.

Signed at 1330 hrs.

Handwritten signature
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 60

(Information from 2000L/7 Dec to 2000L/6 Dec 43)

PART 1
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000)

On 7 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde continued its steady advance in the coastal sector. B Coy 29/46 Bn pushed forward against opposition against snipers and small enemy posts to 613757 where they were held up by fire from an enemy position at 617757. The enemy here were heavily shelled and finally driven out by A Coy, which attacked from the SW. D Coy passed through A Coy and moved to 515762 where they were in close contact at last light. A Coy were then at 617755, B Coy at 617760 and C Coy at 613752. The tank advance was delayed by powerfully built-up mines buried on the track and difficult to locate and one tank was badly damaged. To-day further progress was made against persistent and stubborn opposition and several enemy positions held in some strength were discovered on the line of TUNOM R.

In the 24 Bde sector 2/32 Bn with artillery and mortar support pressed hard on the enemy on the 1800 feature (579719) and at 1600 hrs our troops were holding the eastern slope in close contact with the enemy on the western slope. At last light B Coy was at 580719 with A Coy at 580713 and C Coy at 580717. Earlier a patrol from C Coy to the track junction at 578716 engaged an enemy post on the high ground to the north and inflicted casualties. This morning 2/32 Bn again attacked and seized the whole of the 1800 feature. The enemy was forced to withdraw and the battalion is now patrolling to the west.

In the 26 Bde sector 2/23 Bn mopped up the enemy position at 554712, killing 12 Japs and capturing some equipment. 2/24 Bn reorganised on PEAK HILL and our forward patrols intercepted several enemy parties moving north towards WAREO. At one point 24 enemy were killed without loss to our troops. Later C and D Coys moved west to the track KWATINGKO-WAREO but found enemy holding the southern approaches to WAREO in strength. At last light A Coy was at 552713, C Coy at 543715 and D Coy at 549715. At 2000 hrs 2/23 Bn made a night attack and captured WAREO. At first light 6 Dec 2/24 Bn advanced through WAREO to the NW astride the track and despite stubborn delaying actions forced its way forward to 562723 where it is now in close contact with a strong enemy rearguard. A 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol found an enemy position on the knoll at 512704 just south of ULUO. The position was then shelled by our artillery and this morning the Squadron occupied the village and a patrol pushed forward and engaged the enemy in front of BAZULUO (533719). Meanwhile on 7 Dec the long range patrol from the Squadron towards KULUNGTOFU reached JOANGENG (358756, ref map KULUNGTOFU, 1 inch to 1 mile). No signs of recent enemy occupation were found.

During the day our artillery fired 2,400 rounds in support of our forward troops.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 7 Dec there was more activity on 7 Div front than has been apparent for some time. Enemy artillery shelled 2/14 Bn area and destroyed an ammunition dump. Our guns replied and engaged these enemy positions. A patrol from 2/27 Bn followed the track north of 739651 (ref map PAIPA, 1/25,000 series) through very difficult country. A reconnaissance patrol from 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn at 433860 was ambushed by the enemy and withdrew after suffering some casualties. An enemy patrol sprung one of our booby traps at 455775 and immediately fled, leaving arms and equipment. At first light 8 Dec about 50 enemy attacked forward elements of B Coy PIB in the area 5569, but no details are available. Later, enemy were reported to be digging in on the ridge about 5169. This ridge is reported to dominate the RAMU R valley as far as the FARIA R.

SECRET

2. SEA - OWN

On night 7/8 Dec our PT boats sank one type E barge 9 miles SE of REISS POINT, and destroyed one type A barge on the beach. The enemy returned our fire. At the time of the attack the barges were moving north and appeared to be unloaded.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) HUON PENINSULA. At 1130 hrs ten Marauders bombed dump areas east of WANDOKAI village. The target was difficult to locate owing to low heavy cloud and our aircraft were forced to make bombing runs at low altitude. Accurate observation was not possible. Fifteen tons of bombs were dropped.

At 1105 hrs eleven Mitchells accurately bombed a bivouac and supply area east of KALASA. One fire was observed as the aircraft left the target. Thirteen tons of bombs were dropped.

(b) NEW BRITAIN (ref strat maps, 4 miles to 1 inch)

Six Bostons carried out a barge sweep from CAPE PEIMO (XN0245) to CAPE AINTO (XN4423) from a minimum altitude. Bombing was reported to be accurate and several probably stores buildings and the village of KUMUM (XN3021) were strafed.

(c) NEW IRELAND. During night 6/7 Dec twenty-six Fourfifths bombed and strafed the strips, dumps and dispersal areas at BORPOP (152.50 E, 03.50 S). All bombs were seen to fall in the target areas and large fires were started. Two explosions were seen and the village of BORPOP is reported to have been completely gutted by fire. Twenty-one tons of bombs were dropped and 1100 rounds were expended.

PART 2

4. ENEMY OOB

A PW belonging to 8 Bty of 3 Bn 26 Fd Arty Regt has given some information which appears, so far as it can be checked, to be fairly accurate. At the same time details are treated with reserve if for no other reason than that they have been volunteered by a PW.

(i) MOVEMENTS. PW stated that 75 mm guns were brought from MADANG by barges. All three guns with 8 Bty were destroyed, but one was obtained from 9 Bty, which in turn secured a gun from 2 Bn.

He confirmed that 1 Bn remained at ERIMA and that remnants of 7 Bty, which had been at LAE (where its guns were lost) were now at SIO.

(Comment) A later location is given in 2 Aust Corps Int Report No 57, para 4 (b)).

(ii) ORGANISATION. A PW stated that there two kinds of organisation, namely "KO" and "OTSU". In the "KO" Regt each battery has four type 91 (Sic) 75 mm mountain guns and uses pack horses. The "OTSU" Regt has only three guns per battery and no horses. 26 Fd Arty Regt is such a regiment.

He said that shortage in line batteries was filled by HQ Squad soldiers.

Of 150 men in PW's battery, forty to forty-five most of whom were ill and were left at MADANG and 50 were killed at SISI, leaving about 50 effectives.

(iii) EQUIPMENT. Besides the three guns mentioned there were 30 rifles per battery for protection and 10 rifles with the ammunition train. Officers and NCO's carried pistols. Gunners were NOT used as infantry.

Signed at 2200 hrs

S. Mander
Lt-col
GS

11011
file
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 59

(Information from 2000L/6 Dec to 2000L/7 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAID - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATUMBERA & FORTIFICATION Pt 1/25000)

On 6 Dec in the coastal sector 4 Aust Inf Bde made good progress. D Coy 29/46 Bn advanced from the creek at 618746, but were held up by strong enemy opposition at 617747. Meanwhile B Coy moved along a track to the west to 616747, and both companies then attacked. With strong artillery support they drove the enemy northward and D Coy pushed forward to 621752. Evidence of a planned enemy withdrawal in this sector was found at 619749 where a 70mm gun, dismantled and ready for transport, was captured. At the same time C Coy advanced to 614747 after clearing a post at 615747. A Coy then leap-frogged through B Coy and despite persistent opposition from enemy snipers and LMG posts reached 617754. Thick jungle in this area made moving up difficult. Numerous creek crossings delayed the progress of the tanks, which were therefore unable to take part in the day's fighting, although one troop was able to get forward to 618745. At 1500 hrs B Coy 22 Bn cleared the enemy pocket at 619753. 37/52 Bn continued to provide the flank-guard and B Coy moved to 600742. Here 20 Japs moving north on a well-used track were ambushed and 10 enemy, including 2 Officers, were killed without loss to our troops. At 0640 hrs 7 Dec C Coy 29/46 Bn commenced to move to 614752 and D Coy 37/52 Bn advanced towards 607750.

In the 24 Bde sector A and B Coys 2/32 Bn made an encircling movement to outflank the enemy position at 581718 to the north, but the attempt was prevented by a sheer escarpment. The enemy's position however, was harassed throughout the day by artillery and mortar fire and by our snipers.

In the 20 Bde area on 6 Dec 2/15 Bn with intense artillery support forced the enemy off the ridge at 584707 and B Coy seized the position which was found to consist of 50 deep fox holes. A patrol to the north found an enemy post at 579715, which was then heavily shelled.

In the WAREO sector 2/23 Bn compelled the enemy to retire from 556711, a position which had been under constant artillery, mortar and MG fire for the previous three days. An enemy position NW of KUANKO was harassed by artillery and mortars throughout the day. 2/24 Bn in a two-days' outflanking movement to the south of KUANKO forced their way through precipitous country covered with dense jungle and captured PEAK Hill (552714) with three coys. At 1700 hrs A Coy moved SE down the track and attacked the rear of the enemy position NW of KUANKO, killing six. The company remained astride the track and was still in close contact at last light. At 2000 hrs a party of enemy, attempting to move NW from near KUANKO, was engaged by A Coy and dispersed after suffering casualties. During the night D Coy held PEAK Hill and C Coy was at 549713. This morning (7 Dec) the area KUANKO to PEAK Hill was cleared of enemy after 12 Japs had been killed and an LMG captured. One coy 2/23 Bn and one coy 2/24 Bn are reported to be moving towards WAREO.

On 6 Dec Tac R showed that there was considerable track activity in the LAKONA area and that the tracks in the vicinity of WAREO and KILIGIA showed signs of recent heavy use.

7 AUST DIV (ref map DUMPU 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 6 Dec enemy artillery shelled 2/14 Bn and 2/15 Bn areas. Our guns engaged an enemy position in the area 6963.

PART I (Contd)

SECRET

2. SEA - OWN (ref strat maps 4 miles to 1 inch)

- (a) NEW BRITAIN. On night 5/7 Dec our PT boats on patrol sank an enemy MTB one mile east of PULIE R mouth (XII 5028). The vessel appeared to be escorted and attempted to escape when sighted.
- (b) NEW GUINEA. Our coastal patrol craft attacked four Type A barges in DORFER Bay (XL24). Two were sunk and two others destroyed on the beach. The barges were loaded at the time and moving south.

3. AIR - OWN

- (a) MUCH PENINSULA. On morning 7 Dec eleven Bostons bombed and strafed villas and the coastal track from WANDOKAI to NUZEN. Nine tons of bombs were dropped, and twenty-three strafing passes were made. On column of smoke was observed from NUZEN and villas of AGO and WALINGAI are reported badly damaged.
- (b) NEWAK. On 7 Dec four Thunderbolts whilst carrying out a fighter sweep over NEWAK were intercepted by eighteen to twenty enemy aircraft. Two enemy aircraft were definitely destroyed and one probably destroyed. Our losses were nil.
- (c) BOGADJIM-YAULA Rd. At 0900 hrs 6 Dec eight Airacobras led in by Boomerangs bombed and destroyed No.5 bridge on the BOGADJIM Rd.
- (d) CAPE GLOUCESTER. On 7 Dec forty-one Liberators accurately bombed AA positions and dumps in vicinity of No 2 strip. Bombing was heavy and concentrated, 149 tons being dropped.
- (e) DORFER BAY. On 7 Dec also the coastal area in vicinity of DORFER Bay and east to KOKOPO was bombed and strafed by fifty-one Mitchells. One barge was left sinking, but otherwise results were not observed.
- (f) BARGE SWEEPS (ref strat maps 4 miles to 1 inch)
On morning 7 Dec two Beaufighters and two Bostons carried out a barge sweep from ADLER Bay to LINDENHAFEN (near GASMATA) and from RINGAMOL Pt (YF1259) to Cape HOSKINS from minimum altitude. Nine bombs were dropped and 5600 rounds expended in strafing. One 40/50-ton boat was destroyed by a direct hit and another 50-ft sailing craft left badly damaged.

4. AIR - ENEMY

FINSCHAFEN area. At 1940 hrs 6 Dec two enemy aircraft attacked No.2 strip at DUM-U. Our AA engaged the aircraft which took evasive action. Four 500-lb bombs were dropped clear of the strip and caused neither damage nor casualties.

PART II

5. ENEMY STRENGTH

It is reported by 9 Aust Div today that a captured document gives the casualties sustained by II Bn 79 Regt from 13 to 31 Oct as the following :-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Total</u>
Officers	7	5	12
ORs	123	230	353
	130	235	365

Another document states that the strength of this battalion (incl MG Coy and Bn Gun Pl) on 15 Nov was

Officers	17
ORs	474

SECRET

PART II (Contd)

5. ENEMY STRENGTH (Contd)

Comment: According to a summary of captured documents from 9 Aust Div received at this HQ on 27 Oct the strength of II Bn 79 Regt on arrival in the SATELEBERG-BONGA area on 13 Oct was 1042 all ranks. It thus appears that total casualties from sickness from 13 Oct to 15 Nov plus battle casualties from 1 to 15 Nov were 136 all ranks. If, however, all these were malaria casualties the average wastage per week would be 3.7%. On the other hand it is known that the battalion was in contact during the period 1 to 15 Nov. It is clear, therefore, that some battle casualties would have been sustained.

6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. (ref 2 Aust Corps Int Report No. 57, para 4)

A captured map shows that the defence of HUBIKA (not WANDOKAI as previously reported) was included in the tasks assigned to II Bn 79 Regt. The error was apparently caused by the enemy using the strat map.

Signed at 2235 hrs.

S. Handerson

Lt-col
Gs

SECRET

2 AUSTRALIAN CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 58

(Information from 2000L/5 Dec to 2000L/6 Dec 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUSTRALIAN DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORMIFICATION POINT 1/25,000)

At 0730 hrs 5 Dec, 4 Bde began an attack northwards in the coastal sector. After a heavy artillery concentration 29/46 Bn supported by tanks attacked strong enemy positions consisting of bunkers and fox holes protected by mine fields at 623739. After heavy fighting, in which the tanks helped to reduce the bunkers, the advance continued to 622741, where a second enemy position covering the north bank of the creek was encountered. This position was attacked and the enemy driven off. The Bn then resumed the advance against opposition from snipers and small enemy pockets. During the main advance an enemy pocket at 619738, which had been by-passed, was later mopped up by B Coy 29/46 Bn. At last light D Coy was dug in along the creek at 613745 with A Coy at the track junction 619743 and the Bn less the two Coys at 622739. One of our tanks with damaged tracks and one bulldozer were temporarily put out of action by mines. As a flank guard for the advance up the coast B Coy 37/52 Bn moved to 608738 and then patrolled north and west. This morning (6 Dec) 29/46 Bn resumed the advance against opposition.

In 24 Bde area at first light 5 Dec A and B Coys 2/32 Bn attacked an enemy position at 589715 and after a brief fight drove the enemy out with casualties. Fighting patrols from 2/43 Bn killed some of the retreating enemy. The advance west continued to 583715 where an enemy position was located and then shelled.

In 26 Bde sector the enemy still occupies the high ground north of KUANKO but on 5 Dec made no further attack on 2/23 Bn. Our snipers inflicted several casualties on the enemy, and enemy positions were shelled during the day. A Coy 2/24 Bn advanced west through dangerously precipitous country to 553709. The 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol towards KULUNGUFU reached FASEO (383770 ref 1 inch to 1 mile series) on 5 Dec.

During the day our artillery fired 3,600 rounds in support of the forward troops. An enemy position at 594707 was also harassed.

Tac/R reports state that there are seven MGs in pits at 588796, and that the coastal track north from MASAWENG R is very well worn.

7 AUSTRALIAN DIV

On 5 Dec a 21 Bde patrol reported that slight damage to the road was caused by the air strike. They reported that Bridge 3 which was partly demolished in the previous day's raid had been completely repaired and the road reconstructed.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 4/5 Dec our PT boats sighted five bundles, each of 200 bags, containing rice, soya, flour and meat extract, and three rafts with boxes, believed to contain ammunition, suspended below. It is believed that this was the deck cargo of a submarine. The whole was destroyed.

3. AIR - OWN

HUON PENINSULA

In support of 9 Aust Div, nine Bostons successfully bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas north of KAMLAIDU POINT. Four strafing passes were made and 27 bombs totalling 4 tons were dropped on the target area.

At 0815 hrs twelve Mitchells bombed dump areas at LAKONA and KILIGIA. Bombing was excellent but heavy smoke obscured observation of results. Four Lightnings as part of the fighter escort strafed a fuel dump at LAKONA.

3. AIR - OWN Contd
NEW BRITAIN

RABUL - During the night 4/5 Dec twenty-eight Beauforts attacked shipping in BLANCHE BAY and dumps and dispersal areas at LAKUNAI. 19 tons of bombs were dropped in the target area, resulting in fires visible for twenty-five miles.

In torpedo attacks on the shipping one 7,000/10,000 ton tanker received a direct hit and was left burning. Three other torpedoes were fired but results were not observed.

CAPE HLOUCESTER - Forty-two Liberators bombed dump areas in vicinity of CAPE HLOUCESTER. Bombing was accurate and 153 tons of bombs were dropped but observation of results was obscured by smoke and cloud.

DORGEN BAY - Thirty Mitchells bombed the coastal area at DORGEN BAY. Some huts were observed destroyed but results generally were obscured by cloud.

ARATE - Eighteen Mitchells bombed dumps in vicinity of ARATE but results could not be ascertained.

4. AIR - REEFAE
FINSCHLAFEN

At 2020 hrs 5 Dec an enemy aircraft dropped six bombs NE of KAKIKOC causing slight damage and casualties. At 2110 hrs another plane dropped one bomb in the sea off FINSCHLAFEN.

LAE

At 2100 hrs 5 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped six bombs south of MALAMANG strip but caused neither damage nor casualties.

Signed at 2200 hrs.

S. Ford
h Lt-col
GS

I (a) 1

File

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 57

(Information from 2000L/4 Dec to 2000L/5 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Pt 1/25000)

On 4 Dec D Coy 22 Bn found extensive enemy positions consisting of bunkers and foxholes from 618739 to 624739. In addition four rows of tank-attack mines were discovered across the track at 622739. The enemy positions were heavily shelled by our arty. The tank crossing over the KALUENG R. was completed by 1200 hrs and one troop of tanks advanced to the north bank. At 0750 hrs today 29/46 Bn with tank support attacked north up the coast and heavy fighting was reported to be in progress at 622741.

In the 24 Bde area on 4 Dec B and D Coys 2/43 Bn outflanked enemy positions at 589717 to the south and by 1330 hrs had secured a position astride the track at 585716. At 1545 hrs an enemy party approaching from the west was ambushed, several being killed and the remainder dispersed and then subjected to mortar fire. Enemy guns at 579715 fired 40 shells into the area around 525714 without causing casualties. They were then neutralized by our counter battery fire. The enemy position at 539717 was also shelled.

In 20 Bde sector B Coy moved north from NONGORA through dense jungle with the object of cutting the track in rear of the enemy position at 584707, and at last light had reached 582712 while D Coy had advanced to 586701. The enemy position at 584707 was brought under heavy arty, mortar and MG fire throughout the day.

In 25 Bde area the enemy still maintained pressure on our positions at KUANKO but three attempts by the enemy to attack from the north were broken up by arty fire. A patrol to 517690 encountered an enemy patrol and killed three without loss. PIS scouts reported that there are enemy at 515597 and that a 4-ft wide track in that area is well used. The patrol from 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn to KULUNGTUFU reached 595745 (ref 1" to 1 mile series).

During the day our arty supported our forward troops and shelled enemy at WAREO in the LAGOON dump area (6174) and at KILIGIA. The enemy guns at 579715 and others at 620752 were also shelled.

2. AIR - OWN

Direct support for 9 Aust Div: Between 0800 hrs and 0830 hrs six Bostons successfully bombed enemy occupied areas north of KAMLAGIDU Pt. Twenty-six strafing passes were made and three tons of bombs dropped.

BOGADJIM Road: Ten Mitchells and eight Marauders bombed bridges on the BOGADJIM Rd with some success. Only one bridge is reported to have received direct hits but bombs fell in wooded areas in close proximity to other targets. 24 tons of bombs were dropped.

NEW BRITAIN: Forty Liberators bombed dump and AA positions in vicinity of Cape GLOUCESTER. Many fires were started and heavy smoke obscured the target area. One sqn reported direct hits on an AA position.

3. AIR - ENEMY

At 2050 hrs 4 Dec one enemy aircraft bombed the area north of the strip (6453) causing some casualties but no damage.

At 2105 hrs one aircraft dropped six bombs in the sea off KOLER (646571) causing neither damage nor casualties.

PART II

4. ENEMY OOB

Operation Orders of 2 Bn 79 Regt to prevent allied landings were captured in the BONGA area on 29 Nov 43. The orders cover the period 12 to 20 Nov and contain the following :-

(a) 12 Nov 43

- (i) Main strength 2 Bn was to take up a position from near the south bank of the MASATENG R to WANDOKAI and to Garrison LAKONA.
A Guard Unit at KANOMI was to control a line along the small stream east of AGO.
- (ii) 5 Coy with Mtn guns, QF gun and one W/T Sig Sec attached was stationed at LAKONA.
- (iii) 6 Coy was to act as MASATENG Defence Unit with part on the north bank and main strength on the south bank. Task: to prevent landing or land attack.
- (iv) 7 Coy with Mtn guns was to become the LAKONA Defence Unit with main strength on the north bank of the SANGA R and a detachment in the vicinity of LAKONA village. The company task included the protection of the unloading point.
- (v) 8 Coy with attached one QF Section was to be the WANDOKAI Defence Unit with part of the force at WANDOKAI, and the main strength at a village about one mile further south. Task included protection of the unloading point.
- (vi) Watching posts were to be established on the points of the Capes to the north of LAKONA, south of the MASATENG R., and south of WANDOKAI. Provision was also made for coastal patrols.
- (vii) The Battalion Gun Pl was to take up a position in the vicinity of the Cape on the south side of the MASATENG R with the specific task of destroying allied torpedo boats.
- (viii) "Other Units" were to take up positions at the south bank of the mouth of the MASATENG R to a point about half a mile up stream.

(b) 14 Nov 43

- (i) Three guns of the Rest Gun Coy were to come under command 2 Bn.
- (ii) The Mtn Guns attached to LAKONA Defence Unit were to proceed to KANOMI where they were to come under command 7 Bty 26 Fd Arty Regt.
- (iii) 2 MG Coy Comd was to dispatch one platoon (2 guns) to WANDOKAI Defence Unit Comd who was to send one section to MASATENG and the other to LAKONA Defence Unit. The remainder of the company was to clear the jungle from Bn assembly point to MASATENG Defence Unit.

Comment: The force was in position by 20 Nov 43 but it is suggested by 9 Aust Div that at least part was withdrawn following the failure of the enemy's attack along the coastal strip on 22 Nov.

(c) Administration Notes include the following instructions :-

"Ammunition will be obtained from WANDOKAI. When constructing ammunition and supply dumps, make large dumps rather than many small dumps."

Signed at 2214 hrs.

W. J. M. M. M.
Lt-col
GS

1A(1)
14(2)
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 56

(Information from 2000L/3 Dec to 2000L/4 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1/25,000 NEW SERIES)

At 1000 hrs 3 Dec 22 Bn in the coastal sector advanced across the KALUENG R and secured a bridgehead to enable the construction of a jeep and tank crossing. D Coy moving astride the track encountered about 50 enemy at 623739. Our troops with artillery support drive the enemy out with casualties. D Coy advanced to 614734 and C Coy to 609737 while A Coy gave close protection to the engineer party at 624734. Enemy estimated at two platoons were shelled at 619737. At 1915 hrs an enemy 75 mm gun from near 618744 fired 30 shells into the MUSIKA area.

Along the DONGA-WAREO track C Coy 2/43 Bn supported by artillery and mortars attacked the southern flank of the enemy position at 591716 and captured the position after a sharp fight. Further progress west however was held up by enemy strongly holding a position at 589716 with HMGs, LMGs and at least one field gun. The enemy were heavily shelled. At 1600 hrs the enemy fired 10 shells straight down the track. During night 3/4 Dec the enemy employed some mortar and small arms fire.

On 3 Dec in 20 Ede area a 2/15 Bn patrol from HONGORA along the track NE to the end of the track at 589708 saw no movement. A patrol from HONGORA to the north found a strong enemy position at 584717 and an attempt to outflank the position on the west was held up by heavy enemy fire. The patrol remained in contact and the position was subjected to artillery and mortar fire. At 2015 hrs the enemy NW of HONGORA opened fire with HMGs and LMGs but these were neutralised by accurate mortar fire.

In 26 Ede sector an enemy force attempting to outflank 2/23 Bn position at KUANKO to the east were driven back by our fighting patrols. At 1300 hrs the enemy brought down heavy fire on our positions from the north and east, and made several attempts to approach our perimeter. These were all defeated by mortar and MG fire. At 2050 hrs the enemy formed up to attack from the north but were disorganised by a heavy artillery and mortar concentration and no attack developed. This morning the enemy is still reported to be maintaining pressure on our positions. A three day patrol from 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn to KULUNGUFU reached 475713 (ref map 1 inch to 1 mile) on 3 Dec.

During the day our artillery fired 3,000 rounds in support of the operations on all sectors. Enemy dump areas at 620750 and 603775 were shelled. In the night the artillery harassed the enemy at 620745, 619743 and WAREO.

Tac/R reports indicate that there/signs of the continued /are use of the track WAREO-KILIGIA and that there is much track activity at the suspected dump areas 608775 and 592790.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 3/4 Dec our MTBs made contact with a possible submarine in the bay south east of LEPSIUS POINT. The MTB fired one torpedo which exploded but no debris or oil was seen. Four barges were sighted and one large barge was sunk by gun fire and two others possibly sunk by torpedoes. This action took place under heavy fire from the shore. It is considered that the locality may be a loading point for submarines.

A number of lights were on the beach at VALINGAI.

SECRET

3. SEA - ENEMY

At 2030 hrs 3 Dec two barges believed to be enemy were sighted moving south off GUSIKO but later withdrew northward.

4. AIR - OWN
NEW BRITAIN

Thirty-one Mitchells bombed and strafed the coastal area from REIN BAY to ROTTOCK BAY. A number of barges were strafed and many buildings destroyed. One AA position was destroyed and some fires started. Two squadrons of Liberators bombed AA positions and dumps in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area, and one squadron, unable to locate primary target owing to weather, bombed secondary targets in REIN BAY and ROTTOCK BAY. Clouds over the target area prevented observation of result.

Three squadrons of Mitchells and four squadrons of Liberators failed to locate targets owing to weather conditions and returned to base.

HANSA BAY

Eight Kittyhawks on a fighter sweep strafed one lugger and several barges in DOHUMUR BAY (approx 04° 25' south 145° 10' east). The lugger is reported sunk and the barges were seen beached and burning.

BOGADJIM

Sixteen Kittyhawks bombed number three bridge on the BOGADJIM road. The bridge was reported destroyed.

HUON PENINSULA

Between 0825 hrs and 0855 hrs twelve Bostons bombed and strafed the coastal track and villages from BLUCHER POINT to WANDOKAI and a suspected dump area on the south bank of the SANCA R mouth. Some explosions and a column of black smoke were seen.

Nineteen Mitchells unable to get through to primary targets on BOGADJIM road accurately bombed NAMDA village and SIO Is. Fires covered the plantation on SIO Is and a large column of black smoke was observed in the NAMDA area.

PART 2

5. ORGANISATION REGIMENTAL GUN COY

A document captured in the FINSCHHAFEN area includes a "report on investigation of personnel uporganisation of Inf Gun Coy". The report is probably about two years old but as it refers to the Regimental Gun Coy of 80 Regiment, the details are of interest.

TABLE OF ORGANISATION

	Capt	2/Lieut	PO	WO	SM	Sjt	Cpl	Pte	Total
Permanent pers	1	2		1	1	10		141	156
Present pers	1		1	2	1	3	2	82	92

"Permanent Pers" includes 5 Transport Service and 3 Medical personnel.

A list dated Dec '42 for the same unit contains 135 names.

6. JAPANESE PRESSED RATION (B) for one meal.

This consists of a brown taro paper package similar to sisalkraft containing the following foods pressed into tablets:

(a)	Pressed rice and wheat kernels	21 cakes	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs
(b)	Bean paste	1 cake	$\frac{1}{4}$ oz
(c)	Pressed fish	3 cakes	$\frac{3}{2}$ oz
(d)	Pressed sugar	5 cakes	$\frac{5}{6}$ oz

Net Weight Total 7 $\frac{5}{6}$ ozs

Gross Weight 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs

Method of using - The rice cakes may be placed in water and allowed to soak until a paste-like consistency is obtained. The supplementary foods are then mixed with the rice. The rice cakes may also be eaten dry and are quite palatable in this form.

Signed at 2218 hrs

Sgt Maj
1st Lt-col
GS

1A(1)
1A(2)

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 55

(Information from 2000L/2 Dec to 2000L/3 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST IDV

(ref maps 1/25000 NEW SERIES)

On 2 Dec C Coy 2/43 Bn supported by two tanks resumed the advance west along the WAREO track against opposition on the high ground at 597715. The infantry drove the enemy from the feature and secured the track junction 596716. B Coy then advanced to 593717 but were held up by heavy fire from another high feature 594718. The tanks advanced but one tank became bogged and the other had its tracks damaged by five hits with a 75mm gun at close range. At last light the Coy was still in close contact with the enemy at 593717 and had formed a perimeter around the tanks.

In 20 Bde sector a 2/13 Bn patrol found enemy dug in at 569714 and the position was then heavily shelled. A Coy 2/15 Bn drove the enemy from 586704 and captured a number of rifles and some equipment. They then advanced a short distance north and at last light were in contact with about 50 enemy.

In 26 Bde area, 2/23 Bn resumed the advance towards WAREO from 553712 but encountered heavy LMG fire from a strongly defended position on the southern slopes of PEAK Hill (553713). An attempt to outflank the position was unsuccessful owing to the precipitous nature of the country. The position was then heavily shelled. In the afternoon the enemy in strength attacked C Coy from the high ground north of KUANKO and in a fierce fight secured some high ground to the east of our position. At 1600 hrs C Coy counter-attacked but were unable to dislodge the enemy. The enemy then attacked frontally and from both flanks, and the Coy was forced to retire to the main Bn position at KUANKO.

Our artillery brought down heavy defensive fire on the 2/23 Bn front during the day and on night 2/3 Dec harassed the enemy at WAREO, 597718 and 625738.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 2/3 Dec our PT boats on patrol observed lights on the shore in the vicinity KEPLER Point on RAI coast west of SAIDOR.

3. AIR - OWN (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series):

MASAVENG River to WANDOKAI

On 3 Dec between 0645 hrs and 0900 hrs eleven Bostons accurately bombed probable dump areas at MASAVENG River mouth, EUBIKA and WANDOKAI and strafed the coastal track from MASAVENG River to WANDOKAI. A number of fires were started and several huts destroyed.

CAPE GLOUCESTER

For the fourth day in succession forty Liberators, twenty Mitchells and seven Marauders attacked supply dumps and bivouac areas in vicinity of No 2 strip. Bombing was accurate and smoke from bomb bursts and fires blanketed the target area. One AA position was destroyed.

GASMATA.

During night 1/2 Dec eleven Beauforts bombed dump areas in the vicinity of AMGEN and ANWEK Rivers. One large explosion and some fires were caused.

WEWAK.

Enemy losses as a result of the attack on WEWAK on 1 Dec have been estimated as eighteen enemy aircraft definitely destroyed, two probably destroyed and sixteen damaged. Four Thunderbolts were intercepted by twenty-four enemy aircraft over WEWAK today. Four of the enemy aircraft were shot down but our losses were nil.

PART I (Contd)

3. AIR - OWN (Contd)

SIGHTINGS

At approx 1000 hrs 1 Dec at position 03.00'S 149.00'E, one Liberator on recce made four strafing passes on one motor launch and twenty lifeboats loaded with Japs. Casualties were undetermined but are believed high.

At 1030 hrs 1 Dec one Liberator on recce sighted fourteen large lifeboats containing an undetermined number of occupants at 02.30'S 148.25'E. No attack was made.

4. AIR - ENEMY

At 1850 hrs 2 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped one bomb near an MTB on patrol about 15 miles south of LONG Island. The aircraft was driven off by AA fire from the boat.

PART II

5. ENEMY PROPAGANDA.

The following is a translation of a letter dated 22 Nov left at SATELBERG by the retreating Japs and addressed to "Australian Soldiers." It is judged that the letter was probably written by a Jap NCO, but the text is in line with the usual propaganda which the enemy has followed for many months past.

"We were not successful in our attack against enemy North of SONG River due to heavy enemy firepower and subsequently had to withdraw. Our (Jap) firepower is not strong enough.

The Jap Army is really strong but at present we have no firepower and therefore have lost this battle.

Just wait and see. Hundreds and thousands of Jap soldier comrades have died and we will avenge them. We will definitely recapture FINSCH and LAE.

You Australian soldiers have been fooled by Roosevelt. Think it over! The Jap Army will soon take NEW GUINEA and AUSTRALIA. NEW GUINEA is a stepping stone to ASUTRALIA for JAPAN in the South Seas. Do you know that more than 250/50 American planes were destroyed at RATAUL? Many Jap planes will soon come."

6. ENEMY OOB

(a) Organization of Fd Machine Cannon Coy:-

An application for replacements made on 23 Apr 43 by Capt KAWAMURA Namio OC 19 Fd Machine Cannon Coy, provides details of strengths of this type of unit. Standard strength is stated to be as follows:

Capt	1
1/Lieut {	3
2/Lieut {	
WO	1
Sjt Maj	1
NCO	15
OR	132
Intend	1
Medical NCO	1
Medical OR	2
<u>Total</u>	<u>157</u>

Note: At the date mentioned, the Coy was short 1 officer, 1 NCO, and 40 ORs. The request, however, was for 2 officers and 1 HCO over establishment.

PART II (Contd)

6. ENEMY OOB (Contd)

(b) INOUE "Mixed Battalion"

Further to references to this unit contained in 2 Aust Corps Intelligence Reports 46 and 50 the following further particulars have now been translated (strengths as at 13 Nov are shown in parenthesis):

INOUE Unit (presumably 10 Coy 80 Regt) Capt INOUE Sakae (75)

No 1 Platoon 2/Lieut YOSHIDA Minoru

No 2 Platoon WO KOBAYASHI Masaji

KUMAGAI Unit (probably 2 Coy 238 Regt) 1/Lieut KUMAGAI

Jitaro (112)

No 1 Platoon 2/Lieut KASIZUKA Kikuo

No 2 Platoon PO HOSEKI Fujio

No 3 Platoon Sjt Maj TANAKA Shimichi

No 4 Platoon 2/Lieut HANDA Junichi

AKIYAMA Unit (MG Platoon 80 or 238 Regt) 2/Lieut AKIYAMA

Takao (17)

KUBOTA Unit (probably 2 Bn Gun Pl 238 Regt) 2/Lieut KUBOTA

Kentaro (20)

OKANO Unit (probably Coy 102 Regt) 1/Lieut OKANO Munezora (59)

No 1 Platoon PO HISHINUMA Shoro

No 2 Platoon PO TAKAZAKI Masayoshi

No 3 Platoon PO YOSHINO Yoshimi

SignSec (6)

Medical (2)

Total strength -- 291.

Of the 291 mentioned, 39 were in hospital making the effective strength 252 with an additional 40 men carrying provisions.

Signed at 2207 hrs.

SN Ford
for Lt-col
GS

121 file
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 54

(Information from 2000L/1 Dec to 2000L/2 Dec 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1/25,000 NEW SERIES)

On 1 Dec our forces continued to advance west along the BONGA-WAREO track and the enemy were driven from a commanding feature. Further west our troops advancing north captured KUANKO and were approaching WAREO against strong opposition.

At 0900 hrs B Coy 2/43 Bn with tank support continued to advance westwards along the BONGA-WAREO track, and the enemy was driven from the commanding ground at 599715. Fighting patrols were sent out to mop up the adjacent area. One patrol captured an enemy post at 602714 killing four Japs. An enemy gun, believed to be 75 mm, at 594718 fired 28 shells into the area around 608715 but was neutralised by our counter battery fire. Near the coast at 1800 hrs thirty enemy were observed on the track at 610744 moving north carrying packs.

(Comment: Tac/R reports of 30 Nov indicated that there were defensive positions in the area 6075)

In 20 Bde sector A Coy 2/15 Bn supported by artillery, MMGs and mortars attacked and drove the enemy from positions on the ridge at about 585702, and at last light were still in close contact with the enemy at 586704.

In 26 Bde area 2/23 Bn advanced 1½ miles up the steep track from 560701 towards WAREO against stiff opposition, and KUANKO was occupied at 1215 hrs. Strong opposition was met 300 yds north of KUANKO from enemy in dug in positions and our forward troops were still in close contact at last light. A Coy was at 557708, C Coy at 553712 and the battalion less two companies at KUANKO. A patrol from 2/24 Bn to 518574 made contact with a 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol without seeing any enemy movement. 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrols to MORENG and the track junction at 518574 also saw no movement.

Our artillery supported the advance in all sectors and engaged enemy guns at 594718. During night 1/2 Dec the artillery harassed the enemy near NONGARA.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps MT KUBARI and URUINA 1 inch to 1 mile)

Tac /R reports of 27 Nov indicate that the BOGADJIM-YAULA road has been repaired and there is recent heavy use by MT as far as OLD YAULA (565861). The route to the supply camp at 581772 was not so heavily used but there appeared to be heavy foot traffic to the head of the MINTJIM R. There is a well used track 8-10 feet wide from OLD YAULA to 577864 and 523848 which then branches to BIRI and MATALOI No 1. There appears to be an extensive clearing and new defensive positions on the ridge from 529842 to 522850 with many trenches and fox holes.

2. AIR-OWN

Direct support for 9 Aust Div: At about 0830 hrs 2 Dec nine Mitchells and ten Marauders bombed enemy positions, barge off-loading points and dumps in vicinity of SOWI R mouth. The targets were well covered and bombing was accurate. A number of barges were sighted in shore at 623754 and 609777. 29 tons of bombs were dropped.

NEW BRITAIN: Preliminary reports of the strike on BORGEN BAY on 2 Dec by fifty-eight Mitchells indicate that targets were accurately bombed and strafed but no details have yet been received.

2. AIR - CEN Contd.

WEWAK: On 1 Dec forty-four Liberators escorted by thirty-six Thunderbolts attacked dump and dispersal areas at WEWAK. Many large fires were started and several explosions occurred in the target area. Enemy aircraft intercepted and nine were destroyed. Three Liberators are reported lost.

ATTACK ON MERCHANT VESSEL: At 2355 hrs 1 Dec one Liberator on reconnaissance bombed a 500/1000 ton merchant vessel at a position just east of SAROVE Island. One red and two white flashes were seen indicating hits but observation of damage was obscured by weather.

Signed at 2145 hrs

Stford
mai
for Lt-col
GS

7A (1) / 6
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 53

(Information from 2000L/30 Nov to 2000L/1 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG & FORTIFICATION Point 1/25000 OLD SERIES)
The main fighting during 30 Nov took place in the 26 Bde sector north of the suspension bridge at 573710. The enemy here attempted to prevent our crossing but were encircled and killed to a man. In the LONGA area our troops pushed further west along the WAREO track.

On 30 Nov a 2/23 Bn patrol moved forward from 658735, crossed the KALUENG River, and went further up the coastal track until it was fired upon by enemy IMGs, MGs and mortars at 649751. The position was then shelled. D Coy later advanced to 647744. A 2/43 Bn patrol from 636732 to 631731 found many enemy dead in the area, but did not make contact. At 1600 hrs A and C Coys with tank support advanced west against enemy opposition and at nightfall formed a close perimeter at 625731. During the day D Coy moved forward from reserve to 635732.

In 20 Bde sector E Coy 2/15 Bn crossed the SONG R at 629699 and drove the enemy from a position at 627703. A and C Coys then passed through, advanced NW against interspersed opposition and by last light had reached a position near a village at 609717 (probably NONGARA, but certainty was impossible because of the mist).

In 26 Bde area E Coy 2/23 Bn followed by A and D Coys moved north up a steep slope and cut the WAREO track about 500 yards NE of the suspension bridge at 573710. D Coy then attacked SW down the track against the rear of the enemy position just north of the bridge. C Coy on the south bank supported the attack with mortar and MG fire. It is believed that the whole enemy force in this position were destroyed and it is reported that at least 50 enemy were killed. Our casualties were slight. At nightfall the battalion formed a perimeter camp at about 560714 in close contact with the enemy.

Our artillery supported the attacks in all sectors during the day. During night 30 Nov/1 Dec our guns harassed the enemy at GUSIKA, the LAGOON in 6476, WAREO and KUANKO.

Tac/R reports show that the track NE from WAREO along the ridge to coast at 642777 is being heavily used. In addition a suspected barge offloading point and dump area is believed to be at 636788.

7 AUST DIV (ref URIGINA 1 mile to 1 inch)

On 30 Nov a 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol captured an enemy position at the track junction (451864). The patrol later withdrew but had to fight its way out. Some losses were inflicted on the enemy but our casualties were few.

2. SEA - OWN (Ref strat map SAG SAG 4 miles to 1 inch)

On night 30 Nov/1 Dec our light surface craft on patrol to GRASS Point (X5276) sighted a fast enemy motor boat, possibly a patrol boat. Fire was exchanged and the enemy then took cover at SAG SAG. From here our craft were engaged by gunfire from a coast defence battery.

3. AIR - OWN

BORGEN Bay. About 0900 hrs thirty Mitchells and eight Marauders attacked stores, dumps and bivouac areas in BORGEN Bay. Bombing was accurate and fires are reported in the dump areas. 54 tons of bombs were dropped and direct hits were obtained on a group of 20/30 damaged barges.

Boven. Bostons carried out a barge sweep from Cape GAUSSRE to BORGEN Bay. Villages in the area were bombed and strafed and many buildings were destroyed.

PART I (Contd)

3. AIR - OWN (Contd)

BORGEN Bay (Contd)

A further seven Bostons bombed and strafed the coastal area from BORGEN Bay to TAMUNIAI Island. Direct hits were obtained on KAKOPO village. In all 6½ tons of bombs were dropped.

SIGHTINGS.

During night 30 Nov/1 Dec one Liberator on reconnaissance sighted a convoy of four merchant vessels escorted by two destroyers at a position 02 50' S 150 55' E on a course of 300 degrees. At 2135 hrs 30 Nov the convoy was attacked by a second Liberator which dropped six 1000 lb bombs at 60 feet intervals and obtained two direct hits on a 9000/12000-ton merchant vessel. The vessel is claimed as sunk. AA from the escorting destroyers was light and inaccurate.

A further Liberator on armed reconnaissance in the REIN Bay area at 2327 hrs 30 Nov dropped six 1000 lb bombs on 2 barges with unobserved results.

ALEXISAFEN. On 30 Nov twenty-seven Liberators, unable to bomb primary targets at Cape GLOUCESTER due to weather, attacked dump areas west and NW of No 1 strip at ALEXISAFEN. Many fires were started and explosions were seen as aircraft were leaving the target area. 47 tons of bombs were dropped.

PART II

a. ENEMY ORGANIZATION

Documents captured on 22 Nov 43 in the SONG R area give the following sub-unit organizations. It should be noted that the organization given for 8 Coy is dated 22 May 43, whereas that for 9 Coy is for 13 Nov 43.

(a) Organization, 8 Coy, dated 22 May 43.

Coy Comd : 1/Lieut KASHIWARA, Shigeo (Toshie)

	<u>1 Pl</u>	<u>2 Pl</u>	<u>3 Pl</u>
2/Lieut TOMIYAGA Misao	P/O TAGAMI Nobera	P/O ODA Shiozo	
1 Sec	12 men	1 Sec	13 men
2 Sec	11 "	2 Sec	11 "
3 Sec	12 "	3 Sec	11 "
4 Sec	13 "	4 Sec	13 "
Special duties	4 "	Special duties	4 "
Total	52	Total	52

HQ Squad : WO MORITA Yuki, Sgt Maj NISHIO & 22 men.

Total all ranks 184

Comment: Personalities mentioned identify this as 8 Coy 80 Regt.

(b) Organization, 9 Coy, dated 13 Nov 43.

Coy Comd : 1/Lieut IWA Tsuraki

	<u>1 Pl</u>	<u>2 Pl</u>	<u>Unspecified</u>
2/Lieut TSURUMARU	Sgt ASHIDATE Tokuji		
1 Sec	9 men	1 Sec	9 men
2 Sec	9 "	2 Sec	9 "
3 Sec	10 "	3 Sec	8 "
Total	28	Total	26

Total all ranks 77.

Comment: The personalities mentioned cannot be identified from information available at this HQ, but it is known that the Coy Comd of 9 Coy 79 Regt was killed in the fighting near SCARLET beach and 1/Lieut IWA may have taken his place.

PART II (Contd)

4. ENEMY ORGANIZATION (Contd)

(b) Comment: (Contd)

TSURUMU (whose name was written in pencil on the document after 1/Lieut KOGANO Yoshimi had been crossed out) is identified with 79 Regt.

PART III

TOPOGRAPHICAL

5. TRACKS MASA - KWENZENZANG

(ref KULUNGUFU 1 inch to 1 mile map)

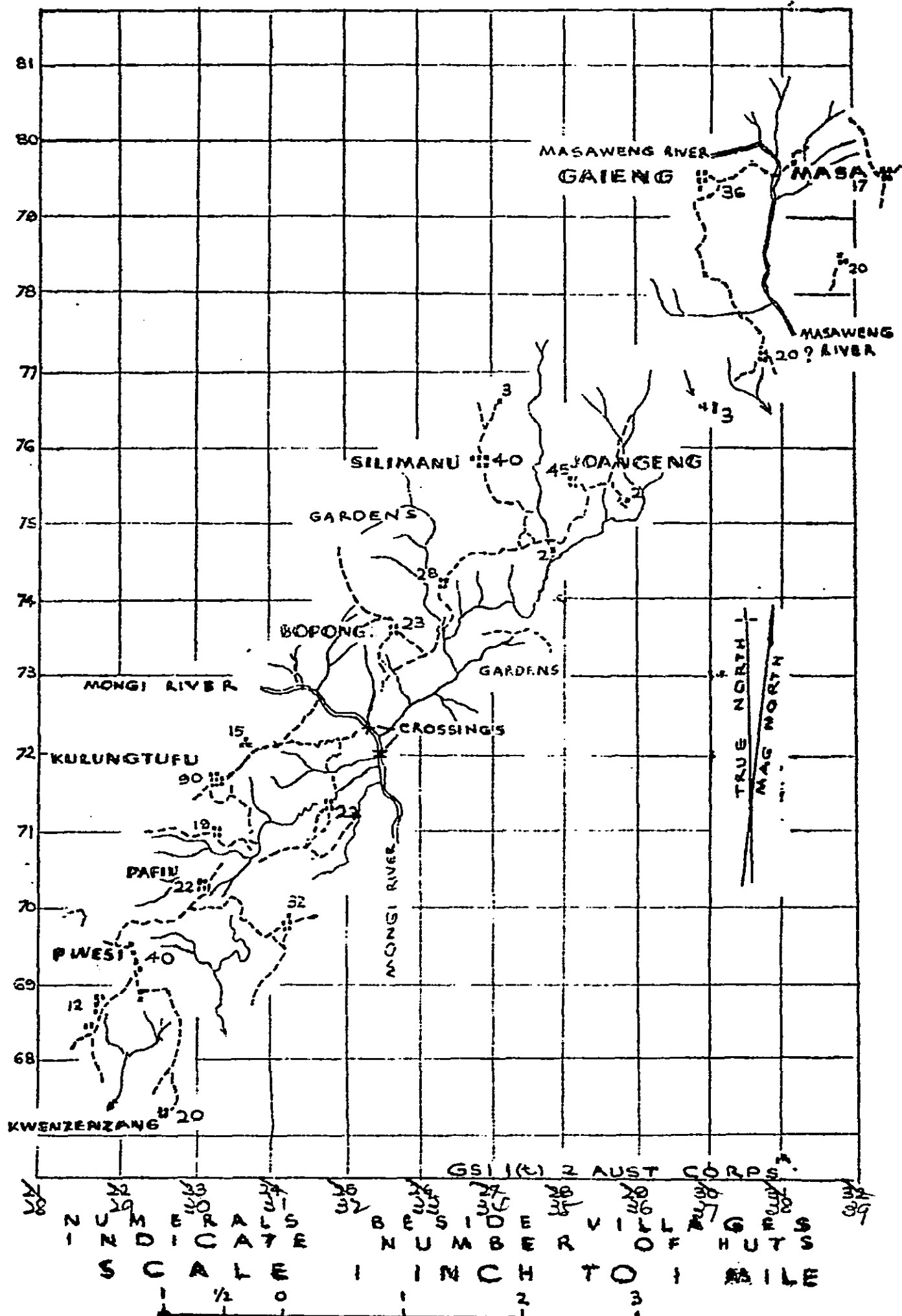
Attached as appendix A is a sketch map showing tracks, rivers and villages in the above area plotted from photographic run 349Y taken 6 Nov 43. The photographs show a village at 393797 which has been accepted as MASA to conform with the 1 inch to 1 mile map. It is most likely, however, that MASA is incorrectly shown on the map as estimates of the time taken to walk from GAIENG to MASA vary between 5 and 9 hours whereas the distance between the two villages according to the 1 inch to 1 mile map is 1½ miles. It appears probable that MASA is NE of Mt BESENONA with GAIENG correctly shown on the 1 inch to 1 mile map.

Signed at 2225 hrs.

[Signature]
Lt-col
GS

FROM MOSAIC OF AIR PHOTOS
RUN NO 319 Y 6 NOV 43

REF MAP KULUNG TUFU 1" TO 1 MILE



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Feb
~~SECRET~~

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 52

(Information from 2000L/29 Nov to 2000L/30 Nov 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000 OLD SERIES).

On 29 Nov our forces continued their advance in the coastal sector and patrols have pushed forward to KALUENG River. Meanwhile a number of enemy strongposts two miles inland on the BONGA-WAREO track have been captured in a series of brisk engagements.

Astride the coastal track 2/28 Bn less A Coy, resumed its advance at first light on 29 Nov and occupied BONGA (658735) at 09:5 hrs. The battalion then moved west along the WAREO track and reached 650734 at 1330 hrs. Here one Jap was killed, another taken prisoner and many documents were captured. A 2/28 Bn patrol then pushed forward from 645736 through GUSIKA to the mouth of the KALUENG R at 651747 without meeting any enemy. At last light the battalion, less two companies, was at 650734 with A Coy at 645736 and D Coy at 658735. A patrol of 2/43 Bn from 636733 east along the track found 25 enemy dead near 646734. A Coy advancing west from its firm base at 636733 found an enemy force in well dug in positions with overhead cover at 632731. The company concentrated their attack on two of the enemy posts and killed the entire garrison of 37. Our casualties were light. Other enemy defences further to the west were heavily engaged by our mortars and artillery. At last light 2/43 Bn less D Coy was at 636733 and D Coy was back in reserve at 647694. Further south just north of the SONG R a 37/52 Bn patrol was fired on by enemy estimated at one platoon at 627703. The position was then shelled. PIB patrols reported that the enemy was occupying a defensive position at 638723 and was still holding his ground at 634704.

In 20 Bde area B and C Coys 2/15 Bn moved to 627699.

In the 26 Bde sector B Coy 2/23 Bn crossed the SONG R near 563710, about 150 yds below the suspension bridge without being observed and established a position on the other side. D Coy was in close support about 564708. C Coy then attempted to cross at the bridge but was held up by heavy LMG and mortar fire from the north bank.

Our artillery supported 24 Bde during the day and engaged enemy positions at 632724, 627727, 599732, a dump area at 564755 and an enemy gun at 578724.

During night 29/30 Nov our artillery harassed the enemy at 628720 and 625727.

7 AUST DIV (ref map MINGINA 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 29 Nov 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn made contact with enemy on the track URUA-RAINBANA at 450860. A 2/6 Sqn patrol inflicted casualties on an enemy OP party at 555750.

2. SEA - ENEMY

Barge Sightings

On 29 Nov at least 15 enemy barges were seen beached along the coast from SIO to FORTIFICATION Point.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) KALASA-MASAWENG RIVER

Early on 30 Nov eighteen Mitchells bombed dumps, bivouac and camp areas just east of KALASA Village. Bombing was accurate, and there were several explosions and columns of black smoke. Twenty-seven tons of bombs were dropped.

Eleven Bostons bombed and strafed tracks from BUZULUO to LAKONA thence to MASAWENG R mouth from a minimum altitude. A number of huts in LAKONA Village received direct hits and many were damaged. Several fires were started and some explosions seen. 5½ tons of bombs were dropped.

SECRET

3. AIR - OWN Contd

(b) NEW BRITAIN

Barge Sweep BORGEN BAY - REIBECK BAY

Between 1240 and 1320 hrs 30 Nov various targets along the coastline from REIBECK BAY to ROTTOCK BAY were bombed and strafed by eight Mitchells. At RUDIGER POINT one barge was destroyed and another damaged. One lugger and seven other barges were strafed but results were not observed. 6½ tons of bombs were dropped. Aircraft were fired on by AA using parachute shells.

(c) CAPE GLOUCESTER

At 1150 hrs 30 Nov Forty-four Liberators dropped 128 tons of bombs on strips, dump, stores and dispersal areas. Bombs were reported in the target area. AA was light and inaccurate and there was no interception.

Signed at 7225 hrs.

V. Anderson

Lt-col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 51

(Information from 2000L/28 Nov to 2000L/29 Nov 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY
9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25000).

On 28 Nov our forces advanced north along the coast and at last light had reached 658731 and 645736.

2/28 Bn less A Coy but with one troop of tanks continued the advance north astride the coastal track through dense jungle. At 1500 hrs strong enemy positions with HMGs, LMGs and mortars were met at 658729. At 1530 hrs the leading company of 2/28 Bn supported by tank fire drove the enemy from these points and at last light the battalion was at 658731. A Coy moved NE from 635733 to the BONGA track and at last light was at 645736. During the day enemy were seen moving at 640734 and were shelled. A PIB patrol found a position at 634703 occupied by about forty enemy. Counted enemy dead in the coastal sector from 20 Nov to 28 Nov total 170.

In 26 Bde sector C Coy 2/24 Bn drove the enemy from 564696. A patrol from the same battalion to 583707 found no enemy. 2/23 Bn forced the enemy to withdraw from 558697 and a patrol to 562710, within 100 yards of a suspension bridge across the SONG R, reported that the bridge appeared to be intact. However, this patrol was fired upon from the north bank by enemy of unknown strength. At last light the battalion was in the FIOR area. There is nothing to report from SATELBERG.

Our artillery shelled enemy posts at 632724, 630727, 627727 and suspected guns at 650736 and 643737. In addition our heavy artillery with its 155mm guns shelled the enemy at 628731.

During night 28/29 Nov our artillery harassed the enemy at 651747, 628729 and 627727.

2. AIR - OWN

(a) WEWAK

Report now available of the attack by eight squadrons of Liberators on WEWAK and BORAM on 28 Nov show that nine grounded aircraft were destroyed and others damaged on the airfields. It is also reported that fuel dumps and AA positions were destroyed, while many large fires were started. A total of eighty tons of bombs was dropped.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER

On 29 Nov twenty-nine Mitchells and nine Marauders bombed supply dumps and bivouacs near Cape GLOUCESTER. Most of the bombs fell within the target area, but observation of results was made difficult by the smoke and dust. Forty-nine tons of bombs were dropped.

(c) RABAU

A delayed report states that on 26 Nov six Beauforts bombed shore installations and dumps near SIMPSON Harbour. Five tons of bombs were dropped and a number of fires were started.

3. AIR - ENEMY

(a) FINSCHHAFEN

At 1825 hrs 28 Nov four enemy dive-bombers dropped sixteen bombs on this area. Three natives were wounded but no damage was caused.

(b) DUMPU

At 1630 hrs 28 Nov one enemy aircraft made a reconnaissance of the 7 Div area.

PART II

4. ENEMY LOSSES

Enemy losses during the recent fighting have been heavy in both men and material.

- (a) The count of casualties covers those actually buried by our troops and some recent enemy graves, but does not take into account the numerous old enemy graves that are scattered through the areas now occupied.

From 11 Nov to 26 Nov reported enemy dead total 553.

With the 1295 reported dead from the initial landing on 22 Sep to 10 Nov, the combined total for the FINSCHHAFFEN operations to date is 1848. It is interesting to note that this figure is nearly four times that for the fighting for LAE (500).

- (b) The count of captured weapons is from the commencement of operations against SATELBERG and the fighting north of the SONG R. Although by no means complete it does give some indication of the scale of the action and the replacement problem which faces the enemy.

The tally is as follows :-

- 4 75mm guns
- 3 37mm QF guns Type 94
- 12 HMGs (JUKIs) Type 92
- 39 LMGs
- 2 81mm mortars
- 10 Lt mortars
- 2 flamethrowers

The above includes all weapons reported captured since the attack on SATELBERG began on 17 Nov.

(From 9 Aust Div Intelligence Summary No 22)

PART IV

SECURITY

5. CARE OF MAPS

Recent maps captured from the enemy are stencilled reproductions of both our 1/63360 FINSCHHAFFEN Sheet and our 1/25000 SATELBERG Sheet. All evidence points to the fact that prior to the capture by the enemy of these two sheets (presumably in the fighting in the KATIKA area in October), the only map he had of this area was the previously captured 1/4 mile strat. It is again stressed that every effort must be made to deny this information to the enemy, as he has apparently no means, readily available, of obtaining it for himself.

(From 9 Aust Div Intelligence Summary No 22)

Signed at 2210 hrs.

E. Handerson

Lt-col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 50

(Information from 2000L/27 Nov to 2000L/28 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map SATELEERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25000)

On 27 Nov 26 Aust Inf Bde consolidated its hold on the SATELEERG Heights area and continued to extend its control northwards. In the 24 Aust Inf Bde sector supply parties succeeded in reaching 2/32 Bn at 635733 and 2/28 Bn with tank and artillery support began to push north up the coastal track. By last light it had reached 654714. This morning the attack was renewed and by midday our troops had reached the 72 northing grid line. The enemy is reported to be hastily retreating.

At 1400 hrs 27 Nov D Coy 2/28 Bn with one troop of tanks and supported by artillery and mortar fire, attacked northwards astride the coastal track from 654702. The enemy was driven from a strongpost at 554708 and the first objective (654711) was secured. C Coy then occupied the position and D Coy exploited as far north as 654714, where they were in contact with a small enemy party at last light. Native carriers escorted by troops from 2/28 and 2/43 Bns reached 2/32 Bn at 635733 at 1650 hrs. A patrol from 643723 found an enemy position at 649725 and inflicted five casualties.

In 26 Bde sector A Coy and one platoon of D Coy 2/23 Bn occupied MAGAKO (555695), but a patrol found enemy at 558697. This position was then engaged with mortar fire. Another patrol moving through PALAIKO discovered enemy, estimated at one platoon, dug in at 565695 and killed three. This position was also subjected to mortar fire.

Our artillery supported 2/28 Bn attack and shelled the enemy at 636721, 617707, 613726 and guns at 643727, 632728 and 629727. During night 27/28 Nov our artillery harassed enemy positions at 641735 and 635726.

This morning (28 Nov) 2/23 Bn (less A Coy) and one troop 1 Aust Army Tank Bn continued the attack north along the coastal track. It is reported that the enemy is hastily withdrawing and destroying bridges over creeks in order to delay our tanks. By 1200 hrs our troops had reached the 72 northing grid line. Meanwhile 2/22 Bn still holds its position about 635733 and A Coy 2/28 Bn is patrolling east along the track towards GUSIKO. In 26 Bde area after heavy shelling and mortar fire 2/23 Bn forced the enemy to withdraw from 558697.

7 AUST DIV (ref map URIGINA 1 inch to 1 Mile)

At 0930 hrs 27 Nov a patrol from 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn attacked ORGORUNA No 2 (453807), but was engaged by enemy LMG and small arms fire. The patrol withdrew without suffering any casualties.

2. SEA - OWN AND ENEMY

Our light surface craft on patrol on night 27/28 Nov sighted what was possibly a submarine on a course NNE 10 miles south of LONG Island.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) DIRECT SUPPORT 9 AUST DIV - 28 NOV

At 1025 hrs seven Marauders and nine Mitchells bombed enemy defensive positions west of BONGA at 628729. The majority of the bombs fell in the target area, but difficult terrain and smoke prevented observation of results. Twenty-three tons of bombs were dropped.

(b) BARGE SWEEP

Eighteen Mitchells carried out a barge search of the coast from SAIDOR to FORTIFICATION POINT between 1030 and 1120 hrs.

PART I (Contd)

3. AIR - OTH (Contd)

(b) Barge sweep contd

No barges were seen. Coast defence positions were identified at BLUCHER Point, HARDENBURG Point and KIARI. Fires were started at the last two places. Further signs of barge activity are reported at HAMBARIWA.

(c) KALASA

At 1015 hrs 28 Nov nine Bostons accurately bombed and strafed the track from KALASA to SIALUM. Some explosions were caused when huts at KALASA were strafed.

(d) WEWAK

Further reports of the attack on WEWAK on 27 Nov show that six enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. In addition one 5000/7000-ton freighter was damaged by 75mm cannon fire and twelve barges were sunk.

Correction: Ref 2 Aust Corps Daily Intelligence Report No 49 para 3 (b), eight squadrons of Mitchells took part in this raid NOT eighteen as was reported.

On 23 Nov eight squadrons of Liberators attacked airfield and shipping at WEWAK and BORAM. No reports are as yet available.

(e) FINSCHHAFFEN

Two Boomerangs have not returned from a Tac/R mission and are believed shot down by enemy aircraft on 26 Nov.

PART II

4. (Ref 2 Aust Corps Int Report No 46 para 4 (f)).

A notebook found in the SATELBERG area on 20 Nov 43, contains further particulars of "INOUE Mixed Bn" as at 12 Nov 43.

"(a) Personalities

Bn and Coy Comd	Capt INOUE Sakae
Coy Comd	1/Lieut KUMAGAYA Nitaro
Coy Comd	1/Lieut OKANO Sotaro
Pl Comd	2/Lieut KUBOTA Kentaro
Pl Comd	2/Lieut AKIYAMA Takashi
Attd MO	1/Lieut KOJIMA Toshio

(b) Organization

KUMAGAYA Coy	4 Pls
INOUE Coy	2 Pls

(c) Strength

13 officers 44 WO's (Sic) 234 men total 291
(39 wounded have been excluded from the above).

(d) Fire Power

3 MGs	7200 rds MG amn
18 LMGs	777 Hand Grenades
14 Grenade Dischargers	51 Grenades
151 rifles	23389 (Sic) rds rifle amn
1 Bn Gun	60 rds Bn Gun amn."

Comment: The above is the phrasing of the original document. It is presumed that Capt INOUE had been a coy comd and was appointed CO of the combined force. His place as OC, INOUE Coy, was apparently taken by 1/Lieut OKANO.

Signed at 2225 hrs

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Lt-col
GS

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SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 49.

(Information from 2000L/20 Nov to 2000L/27 Nov 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000 series)

On 26 Nov there was heavy fighting in 24 Bde Sector. PINO HILL and enemy posts nearby were captured and a prolonged enemy attack on the main 2/32 Bn position was repulsed. 26 Bde. further strengthened its hold on the high ground already won by the occupation of MASANGKOO (547692) and FIOR. Our artillery supported operations during the day with heavy concentrations.

At 0900 hrs 26 Nov B and D Coys 2/32 Bn supported by tanks and artillery captured PINO HILL (649724). D Coy went on to exploit and despite some opposition had reached the main area held by its Bn at 635733 by 1700 hrs. For 2 1/2 hrs from first light the enemy attacked 2/32 Bn at this position and their determined attacks were supported by artillery and mortar fire. Eventually however all attacks were repulsed and 44 casualties were inflicted upon the enemy. This makes a total of 126 known enemy killed by this unit since 20 Nov. Patrols from 2/43 and 2/28 Bns located enemy positions at 654708 and 628710 and both positions were then shelled and engaged by our mortars. At 1130 hrs enemy artillery fired 20 rounds onto PINO HILL and 14 rounds just to the north, causing some casualties.

In 26 Bde Sector a patrol from 2/24 Bn along the track north through PALANKO killed one Jap at 565693, and found many enemy graves along the route. Additional enemy LMGs and mortars were captured. C Coy 2/23 Bn occupied MASANGKOO (547692) without opposition, and a patrol from D Coy occupied FIOR (561700) at 1630 hrs. The track leading north from FIOR to WAREO appeared to be well worn.

Our artillery fired 4700 rounds during the day in support of 24 Bde on enemy positions at 657708, PINO HILL (649724) 732728, 630727 and on enemy guns at 648729 and 650736. During night 26/27 Nov our artillery also harassed the enemy at 641735, 635726 and 628726.

At first light to-day, 27 Nov, the enemy began to shell 2/32 Bn at 635733 and at PINO HILL, but his guns were neutralised by our counter battery fire.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps MT KUBARI and URIGINA 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 26 Nov a patrol from 2/25 Bn reached 723660. Enemy artillery shelled this Bn's area. Patrols from 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn reported that KOKA (492814), YAGUNBU (402810) and GATINA (393823) were clear of enemy.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 26/27 Nov two MTEs found and engaged four enemy barges off ANHEM Point (about 24 miles south of CAPE GLOUCESTER). The barges were heading north apparently for CAPE GLOUCESTER. There were two type As and two others estimated at 90 to 100 feet long. All were heavily laden with troops and 75 mm guns. The four barges were sunk and it is reported that there were few survivors.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) Direct support 9 Aust Div - 27 Nov

About 1040 hrs eighteen Mitchells accurately bombed an enemy defensive position west of EONGA. Twenty-seven tons of bombs were dropped causing one large explosion and starting fires.

Six Mitchells carried out a supply - dropping mission at 637732 (ref FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000). Supplies were dropped accurately in the target area from 200 to 500 ft. The crews report that the area was defined by smoke but that the 'H' sign was not clearly visible.

SECRET

3. AIR - OWN Contd.

(b) WEWAK

From 1120 to 1145 hrs eighteen squadrons of Mitchells bombed the strips, dispersal areas and dumps at WEWAK and BORAM. Preliminary reports indicate that bombing was considered accurate. Many small and some large fires were started and target areas were covered in smoke and dust. Eight smoke columns in particular were seen which appeared to be grounded enemy aircraft burning. There was no interception. One Mitchell was shot down by AA fire.

(c) GASMATA

Thirteen Liberators bombed LINDENHAFEN Plantation at 1030 hrs 26 Nov. Results were not observed owing to the difficult terrain. Twenty-seven tons of bombs were dropped.

No reports have yet been received of the strike on 27 Nov by two squadrons of Mitchells on stores and dumps in the GASMATA area.

(d) SIGHTINGS

While on reconnaissance on 26 Nov one Liberator at 2035 hrs sighted an enemy cruiser and destroyer about 75 miles north of CAPE HOSKINS. In a skip-bomb run a direct hit with 1000 lb bomb was observed on the cruiser near the superstructure and there were one large explosion and three smaller ones; the cruiser sank in five minutes. Four 1000 lb bombs were directed at the destroyer but fell 300 ft astern. No damage was observed.

(e) INTERCEPTIONS

At 1655 hrs 25 Nov one Liberator on reconnaissance was intercepted by five enemy fighters three miles north of FINSCHHAFEN. In the ensuing engagement three fighters were damaged.

At 1130 hrs 26 Nov four Kittyhawks intercepted two enemy fighters NW of SAIDOR. Both were destroyed; one Kittyhawk was damaged but returned to base.

At 1100 hrs 26 Nov four Airacobras sighted and intercepted 18 bombers and 20 fighters 20 miles north of FINSCHHAFEN. Two single seater fighters were destroyed. Our losses were nil.

4. AIR - ENEMY
FINSCHHAFEN

At 1050 hrs 26 Nov ten enemy bombers escorted by fifteen fighters dropped 50 anti-personnel and incendiary bombs over a large part of the coastal strip north of the QUOJA R. Slight damage and some casualties were caused.

Signed at 2215 hrs

V. Handley
Lt-col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 48

(Information from 2000L/25 Nov to 2000L/26 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref Maps SATELBERG & FORTIFICATION Point 1/25000).

After the capture of SATELBERG Heights early on 25 Nov, the remainder of the day was spent in consolidating the ground won. Elsewhere there was active patrolling and enemy positions were harassed by artillery fire.

A patrol from 2/43 Bn found enemy digging in at 654708 and the position was then engaged by our guns and mortars. Supply parties for 2/32 Bn encountered strong enemy posts, including HMGs and LMGs, at 636726 and these were also shelled. The supply parties, however, were still unable to proceed. 2/28 Bn patrols to 617690 and 625696 saw no movement. A two-day patrol from 2/15 Bn found an enemy position astride the track at 623708 and killed two Japs. A patrol from GARABOK IN7 up the spur to 580700 saw cattle grazing on the south bank of the SONG R and enemy moving at 578723.

In 26 Bde sector a patrol from 2/24 Bn found that PALANKO was unoccupied and a 75mm gun was discovered at 569677. A patrol west up a spur made contact with 2/48 Bn at SATELBERG at 1445 hrs. As reported yesterday SATELBERG Heights were captured early in the morning by 2/48 Bn against strong opposition from the enemy rearguard. At last light 2/24 Bn (less two companies) was at 579679; D Coy was at 555669 and A Coy at 589661. 2/23 Bn after its heavy fighting on 24 Nov captured a 75mm gun at 553677. The dispositions of this unit at last light 25 Nov were: the Battalion (less A Coy) at 552679, and A Coy at 555679.

Since 18 Nov enemy casualties in the 26 Bde sector are known to have been heavy. Apart from those recovered and buried by the enemy themselves a total of 112 bodies have been buried by our troops. In addition numerous graves have been found and casualties inflicted by our artillery and mortar fire are unknown. In all the Brigade has captured three 75mm guns, one 37mm gun, twelve HMGs, (Jukis), three mortars and many rifles and LMGs.

A patrol from 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sen to MARARUO found that village unoccupied. Extensive fieldworks at 540688, 548678 and a gun position at 534673 had also been abandoned. A patrol to MORENG discovered that well prepared positions from 538647 to 536643 had been vacated by the enemy.

7 AUST DIV (ref map MP KUBARI, 1 inch to 1 mile).

On 25 Nov a patrol from 2/25 Bn met an enemy patrol at 708652. There was a sharp action and casualties were suffered by both sides.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 24/25 Nov our PT boats sank two enemy barges moving south between Cape KING WILLIAM and SIALUA.

3. SEA - ENEMY

At 0800 hrs 24 Nov an enemy submarine was sighted about 70 miles ESE of SIALUA. It crash dived on the approach of our aircraft.

4. AIR - OWN

NAMBARIWA

About 1000 hrs twenty-eight Mitchells and eight Marauders bombed a suspected barge hideout and dump area near NAMBARIWA. The majority of bombs fell in the target area and some fires were started, but observation of results was prevented by dense clouds of smoke. A total of fifty-four tons of bombs was dropped.

PART I Contd

4. (Contd) GASMATA

Two squadrons of Liberators bombed GASMATA airfield. After the first groups of bombs had been dropped, further observation of results was prevented by smoke over the target.

PART II

5. ENEMY OOB : 41 DIV

2 Aust Corps Intelligence Report No 47 mentioned as a "Stop Press" item that two identification tabs attached to Japanese rifles captured at AMINIK (ref BAGASIM 1 inch to 1 mile, 400022) on 16 Nov 43 identified elements at least of 239 Regt in that area.

During March 43 41 Div arrived at WEWAK.

There has been no evidence to prove that 237 Regt has moved from WEWAK, where it has probably been engaged on airfield and road construction work.

About July 43 238 Regt moved to the SIO-BONGA area and units were subsequently identified at SALAMAU, LAE and FINSCHHAFEN during our successive advances. A substantial part, including most of 2 Bn, has been committed in the BONGA-SATELBERG area. These and the troops evacuated from LAE have suffered heavy casualties and the strength of the whole regiment is probably now not more than 700 effectives.

In the case of 239 Regt there has been only slight evidence that it had moved to MADANG, but this was lent some weight by the general trend of known enemy movements as well as a PW statement in September 43 that part of the regt was engaged on road construction work between WEWAK and MADANG and that there were about 1000 working at ALEXISHAFEN. It now becomes evident that a portion at least of the regiment is on 7 Aust Div front, but in what strength is not yet clear. It is possible that two battalions have moved forward and that the third has been assigned to coastal defence at SIO.

Signed at 2155 hrs.

S. Anderson

LT-col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 47.

(Information from 2000L/24 Nov to 2000L/25 Nov 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1/25, 100 series).

On 24 Nov in 24 Bde area 70 enemy dead were found and a large defensive position was discovered to have been vacated. The enemy however was holding a strong position with about one battalion at 642707. On SATELBERG Rd 2/48 Bn advanced to within 150 yds of the ridge, and a late report indicates that this morning a footing was obtained on the eastern end of the Heights.

Mopping up of the enemy in area 657702 was completed by fighting patrols of 2/43 Bn, but a recce patrol from this unit located enemy dug in at 654707 and enemy about one battalion strength near 642707. Both positions were shelled and mortared. Forty additional enemy including four officers were buried in the area 6570 and thirty more buried at 644695. 150 enemy rifles were recovered at the latter point. Another patrol found 800 fox holes which had been evacuated at 643705. Considerable enemy movement was seen at 640734 and the area was shelled by our artillery.

East of SATELBERG 2/24 Bn found that the enemy had vacated their forward positions consequent on our artillery fire, but a party of ten enemy were dug in at 577677. Many Jap graves were found in the area. Astride SATELBERG Rd B Coy 2/43 Bn advanced to the road bend at 559674 and then continued the advance up the steep slope towards the top of the ridge. The enemy held a strong position at the top of the ridge and the company was held up by heavy fire. An outflanking movement to the right silenced an enemy post and the company then moved forward to 561675. D Coy then joined B Coy and three enemy counter-attacks towards last light were repulsed. Our forward troops were then about 150 yards from the ridge. B Coy 2/23 Bn moved around the left flank of C Coy at 555674 to 555676 and attacked south down the ridge towards an enemy position at 555675. The enemy counter-attacked B Coy from the north and west in two waves. Heavy casualties were inflicted upon the first wave and B Coy then withdrew slightly to SW, and the second wave of the enemy attacked their own position at 555675. B Coy then reoccupied their position on the ridge at 554674. A 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol at 554645 sighted twenty enemy who then withdrew. A patrol from 22 Bn found that MORENG (535636) was clear of enemy.

Our artillery fired more than 2300 rounds on enemy positions at 574676, 537674, 575685 and enemy pockets on 24 Bde front. Gun positions at 648729 and 619731 were also engaged. During night 24/25 Nov our artillery harassed the enemy at 641735, 626730, 642706 and 657708.

At 1050 hrs this morning it was reported that our troops (presumably 2/48 Bn) had gained a footing on the eastern end of SATELBERG Heights.

7 AUST DIV (ref map DUMPU 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 24 Nov there was active patrolling in 25 Bde area and casualties were inflicted upon a small Jap force at 707641.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 23/24 Nov our PT boats sighted six barges loaded with supplies moving south 6 miles south of HARDENBERG Point. Our craft attacked the barges and sank two.

3. AIR - ENEMY

FINSCHHAFFEN (ref maps 1/25, 000 series)

At 1640 hrs 24 Nov nine enemy bombers escorted by twenty fighters dropped bombs south of the airfield in the area 6363 and in the sea at 647654. No damage or casualties are reported.

PART 2

4. ENEMY SUPPLY BY SUBMARINE

According to a PW who was at HAMBARIWA from 20 Jul to 20 Oct supplies to that point up to the end of August 43 came by fishing boat from LONG Is. This was stopped by the activity of allied PT boats.

About the middle of Sept, submarine supply was instituted, and during a period of one month, six subs arrived. The submarines were unloaded by five type A barges in two hours. Deck cargo consisted of four canvas containers each filled with 200 rubber bags of supplies, which were dragged to shore by barges. The deck cargo was stated to weigh 25 tons. In addition, ammunition was transported inside the submarine, and transferred to a single barge.

(Comment - probably 10 - 15 tons ammunition. Total cargo therefore 35 to 40 tons per submarine).

Barges, hidden at HAMBARIWA, carried supplies to KANOMI and returned in one night. There was a shortage of barges due to PT boat operations.

Barges which evacuate casualties to MADANG return empty, but may dump supplies at KIARI.

PART 3 - TOPOGRAPHICAL

5. TRACKS SATELBERG AREA (ref SATELBERG 1/25,000 sheet)

Tac/R reports a bench cut track running east from MARARUO into the QUOJA River valley at 544673. It was then lost to view but is considered to join the track from SATELBERG to the 3200 ft feature (544684).

6. LANDING BEACHES GUSIKO - MASAYENG River

(ref FORTIFICATION Pt 1/25,000 sheet).

Tac/R reports that landings from barges could be carried out at the undermentioned points, and gives the number of barges which could probably be unloaded simultaneously at each point.

- (a) Lagoon in square 6476; 5 barges
- (b) Beach at 642778; 8 barges.
- (c) Beach at 636788; 10 barges.
- (d) Beach at 617808; 12 barges.
- (e) Beach MASAYENG River mouth to 614835; 30 barges.

Elsewhere in the area, it is reported, the coral cliff sea wall varies from 5 ft to 25 ft in height and coral reef protudes above the water level for a width varying from 5 ft to 50 ft from the coast line. It is considered that one barge at a time could pass through the narrow entrance to the lagoon in square 6476 and it is stated that there is a beach 100 yds long at the north end of the lagoon, where barges could be off loaded. It is considered that barges could approach the shore line at each of beaches (b), (c), (d) and (e) above before off loading. There are signs of considerable enemy movement in the area and it is considered that opposition could be expected at each of the points.

Comment - Reference to aerial photographs confirms the existence of the four beaches, but raises doubt as to whether barges could enter the lagoon and not reveal the beach at its north end.

The dimensions of the respective beaches are:-

- Beach (b) - about 100 yds long and 10 yds wide.
- Beach (c) - About 350 yds long and 20 ft wide.
- Beach (d) - About 500 yds long and 30 yds wide.
- Beach (e) - About 800 yds long and 50 yds wide.

Signed at 2210 hrs.

8th 700d Mai
Lt-col
Gs

STOP PRESS:

ENEMY COB

Two cloth identification tabs attached to Jap rifles captured at AMINIK (ref BAGASIN 1 inch to 1 mile 400022) on 16 Nov 43 identify at least elements of 239 Regt of 41 Div in the area.

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 46

(Information from 2000L/23 Nov to 2000L/24 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1/25000 series)

Late on 22 Nov and on 23 Nov the fighting was confined to 24 Bde sector, astride SATELBERG Rd, activity was restricted to strong patrolling by our troops.

Patrols from 2/43 Bn mopped up small enemy parties near 657702 but some enemy still remained in the area. A patrol found PINO HILL (649724) to be occupied by the enemy and it was then shelled by our artillery. A patrol from 2/32 Bn captured numerous enemy weapons including one flame-thrower near 640700 and located a company position at 637707. This position was also shelled. Following two strong enemy attacks on C Coy's position at 631723 late on 22 Nov the company moved to 635724.

In their attack on 24 Bde front on 22 Nov the enemy lost 150 killed for certain and probably many more.

In the SATELBERG Rd area, on 23 Nov, 2/24 Bn heavily mortared enemy positions at 577677 and 577679. There was no advance in the sector but both 2/48 and 2/23 Bns patrolled extensively to the south and SW of SATELBERG. A 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol found that the enemy had recently evacuated large field works at 545 647 and 543647 and that footprints on track MORENG - MARARUO at 541647 all led north.

Our artillery shelled enemy positions at 648729, 650736 and 623729 and heavily shelled the suspected location of HQ 20 Div and dump areas at HONGARA (609717).

During night 23/24 Nov there was some movement on 24 Bde front and two enemy were killed. Artillery harassed the enemy at 657708, 650736, 642736, 642706, PINO HILL and 625729.

7 AUST DIV (ref map URIGINA 1 inch to 1 Mile)

On 23 Nov 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn reported that URIGINA (385854) and URIA (423865) were clear of enemy.

The total number of enemy confirmed killed in 7 Div area from 18 Oct to 22 Nov is 27.

2. AIR - OWN (24 Nov)

KALASA.

At 0830 hrs nine Mitchells and ten Marauders attacked the village, dumps and bivouac areas in vicinity of KALASA.

At about 0930 hrs nine Mitchells and six Bostons bombed and strafed villages and tracks from KALASA to SIALUM Island from a minimum altitude. Many huts and buildings were destroyed and fires started. One AA gun was destroyed at HARDENBERG Point.

GASMATA

No reports are yet to hand of the strike on GASMATA by three squadrons of Liberators.

3. AIR - ENEMY

FIINSCHHAFEN - 23 Nov

(a) At 0100 hrs one squadron of enemy aircraft bombed MORENG (534635). No report of damage has been received.

(b) At 0920 hrs nine enemy bombers escorted by fighters dropped bombs near KUMAWA. No damage was caused.

PART II

4. ENEMY OOB

(a) A captured OO for the enemy attack on 24 Bde positions on 22 Nov showed that the attack from the north on the coastal track BONGA - KATIKA was carried out by 2 Bn 238 Regt. Orders issued probably on 11 Nov contained reference to 7 and 8 Coys and 2 MG Coy of 238 Regt as the coastal attacking force.

PART II Contd.

(a) Contd.

COMMENT - Of the remainder of 2 Bn, 6 Coy is considered ineffective and 5 Coy is at present unlocated.

- (b) The same OO for the Jap attack on 22 Nov from the INW along the north bank of the SONG R identifies 1 and 2 Bns of 79 Regt.
The orders probably issued on 11 Nov also included 12 Coy of 79 Regt and 4 Coy 26 Fd Arty in this force.
- (c) A PW has stated that 20 Div HQ moved to vicinity NONGARA on 10 Nov.
- (d) Captured documents identify as the coastal defence force LAKONA - KANOMI 3 Bn (less 12 Coy) of 79 Regt, together with 20 Div tpt Regt; 79 Regt gun Coy equipped with Mtn guns; some naval tps including a pom pom unit; and possibly a reformed unit of 102 Inf Regt.
- (e) 80 Regt was responsible for the defence of the SATELBERG area but only 2 and 3 Bns are specified. There is no mention of 1 Bn.
- (f) Capt INOUE appears to have commanded a mixed force of less than Bn strength located on the high ground about 3000 yds west of KUMAWA. This force apparently comprised part of 10 Coy 80 Regt (which INOUE previously commanded); one coy of 102 Regt and elements of 233 Regt.
COMMENT - Our patrols report that this force has withdrawn northwards.
- (g) 20 Div Engr Regt was shown in 11 Nov orders on the high ground SE of PALANKO.

5. ENEMY INLAND SUPPLY ROUTES

Confirmation of previous information on the enemy inland supply route from SIALUM through KALASA has been received.

A captured OO issued by 20 Div at HAMBARIWA on 27 Sep contains an instruction to CO 20 Div Engr Regt to undertake construction of the road over which the Div was to advance.

CO 20 Div Engr Regt with under command the advance party of 33 Indep Engr Regt, was to build a road from HAMBARIWA to TUSAKO in three sections :-

- (i) From HAMBARIWA to SIALUM with particular attention to the cliff track near SCHARNHORST Pt.

COMMENT - Probably GNEISENAU Pt is meant as at this point there is a difficult section along the cliff face. At SCHARNHORST Pt there is no real difficulty).

- (ii) A "mountain arty track" from SIALUM to KALASA.

- (iii) After 4 Oct.

From KALASA through ORARAKO and ZAGAREMI to TUSAMO

"so that mountain arty can pass."

The OO also instructed CO 20 Div Engr Regt to make contact secretly with TAKEHANA Bn. (is II Bn 79 Regt) and TANAKA TAI.

COMMENT:

- (a) C/Lt TANAKA was adjt of 30 Indep Engr Regt about Sep this year.
- (b) A PW from III Bn 79 Regt stated that his regt marched south from KALASA by the inland route carrying food and ammunition and arrived in SATELBERG area about 14 Oct. He added that they could not bring their 75mm Fd Guns overland with them but were equipped with six "Type 94" Mtn Guns instead.

6. JAPANESE DAILY RATION IN NEW GUINEA

From a study of captured documents, it seems that, under favourable circumstances the following ration is issued to the Japanese in NEW GUINEA :-

Staple Food

Rice (polished) per man per day 870 grms

Supplementary Foods

Tinned beef	90 grms
Dehydrated vegetables	120 grms
Soy Sauce	15 grms
Powdered bean paste	15 grms
Sugar	15 grms
Salt	15 grms

Total per man per day 1140 grms
= 2.5 lbs.

"Nutritious " substitutes for the above supplementary foods may be such things as compressed pickled plums, or compressed fish. In addition, cigarettes and sweets may be issued. Often however, Japanese have not received the above ration in a forward area, and in some cases the staple food ration is cut by half or one-third. Supplementary food may exclude beef and vegetables, for which native foods in varying quantities are substituted.

Signed at 2218 hrs.

SAZUOKA
mai
for Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 45

(Information from 2000L/22 Nov to 2000L/23 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000)

On 22 Nov there was heavy fighting in the areas held by both 24 and 26 Bdes, and the enemy made two converging attacks from north and west towards the mouth of the SONG R.

In the 24 Bde sector an enemy force estimated at one company attacked D Coy 2/43 Bn at 655701, but was repulsed with at least twenty killed including two officers. One platoon of 2/32 Bn moving along a jeep track, which is used for taking supplies to forward positions, encountered thirty enemy at 639705. This area was then shelled by our artillery. At 1300 hrs about one Company of the enemy attacked the positions of 2/43 Bn near the SONG R at 643697 but were driven back and at 1630 hrs D Coy 2/32 Bn counter-attacked, killed twenty-two and cleared the area as far north as the kunai patch at 639701. C Coy of the same unit occupied the high ground at 631723 and in the late afternoon the enemy launched an attack against this position also. No details of the action are yet available.

A 2/28 Bn patrol met and killed three out of five Japs at 633695. The patrol then saw twenty enemy digging in near the creek at 632696 and killed three more. Heavy artillery fire on the position forced the remainder of the enemy to withdraw. During the afternoon a small enemy force approached the post held by C Coy 2/28 Bn at 636692, but was engaged by our mortars and compelled to retire.

During night 22/23 Nov there was some enemy movement in the 24 Bde sector and our artillery harassed the enemy in the areas about 6573, 6470 and 6273.

On 22 Nov in the 26 Bde sector, C Coy 2/24 Bn attacked the enemy force which is strongly dug in at 577678, but were unable to dislodge it. At last light B and C Coys were occupying positions in close contact with the enemy at 579679 and 578679, while A and D Coys were further west at 575675. In the centre astride the SATELBERG Rd 2/48 Bn advanced close to the ford on the upper SEKI at 556675 but found the position strongly held by the enemy. Meanwhile C Coy 2/23 Bn advanced north up a spur to 554675 where they made contact with the enemy. B and D Coys of that Battalion were then at 554672 and 554670 and A Coy was in reserve at 562563.

Our artillery supported the 26 Bde advance and shelled enemy positions at 575677, 563674, a gun position at 647726 and enemy moving at WAREO and NONGARA (609716).

7 AUST DIV (ref map URIGINA and DUMPU 1 inch to 1 Mile)

On 22 Nov Tac R and patrol reports indicate that there is increased enemy activity in the KISA area (4782).

In the 25 Bde sector a patrol from 2/25 Bn reached 708647 and on the right a patrol from 2/2 Pnr Bn to MUNGO (855630) and GURIA (881595) found those villages clear of the enemy.

2. SEA - OWN (night 22/23 Nov)

(a) SIO

Our light surface craft destroyed three loaded enemy barges off SIO. Several enemy in addition are believed to have been killed on the beach. Our craft were engaged with small calibre fire from the beach and the barges.

(b) BLUCHER POINT

Four loaded enemy barges south bound were attacked by PT boats off BLUCHER Pt. Two barges were sunk and one probably sunk. The PT boats were fired upon by a three inch shore battery.

PART I Contd

3 AIR - OWN

DIRECT SUPPORT 9 AUST DIV - 23 Nov.

Between 0930 hrs and 1015 hrs fifteen Mitchells and six Bos-tons attacked targets in the SATELBERG area. MORENG village was accurately bombed, the aircraft being directed onto the target by smoke from our guns.

The villages and tracks from JOANGENG to KULUNGUFU and from BOING-BANGENG to NGANDUO were bombed and strafed from a minimum altitude. Numerous huts and buildings were destroyed. In all fourteen tons of bombs were dropped.

At 0955 hrs five Mitchells dropped ammunition and stores at 638731, where the forward companies of 2/32 Bn are located.

SIGHTINGS

A Liberator on reconnaissance at 1105 hrs 22 Nov observed one 5500/6000 ton merchant vessel and one destroyer at 01.00 N, 149.10 E. The merchant vessel was attacked and left sinking after a direct hit and a near miss with 1000 lb bombs.

4. AIR - ENEMY

FINSCHHAFFEN Area (ref maps 1/25000 series)

- (a) At 1110 hrs 22 Nov ten enemy aircraft bombed the area 6269. No damage was caused and only one casualty suffered.
- (b) At 1835 hrs three enemy aircraft dropped five bombs at 641693 without causing any damage.
- (c) At 0450 hrs 23 Nov one enemy bomber dropped three bombs in the area 6468. There is no report of damage or casualties.

PART II

5. ENEMY OOB : SATELBERG - BONGA area

(ref 2 Aust Corps Int Report No 43 para 5 (a))

There is some evidence that I Bn 80 Regt, which lost most of its effectives in the severe fighting at SALAMAU and probably many of the remainder in the retreat from LAE to KIARI, has been at least partially reformed.

The battalion was not mentioned in the movement order of 80 Regiment dated 12 Aug from BOGADJIM to FINSCHHAFFEN, but a diary captured in the SATELBERG area on 16 Nov 43 contains the following entries :-

" 11 Sep killed and wounded of No 1 Bn:

Maj JINNO - wounded

No 1 Coy

CO Capt NAKATA - wounded

No 1 Pl Co 2/Lt IKEGAMI - killed

No 2 Pl Co 2/Lt TOKIWA - killed

No 3 Pl Co 2/Lt HIRAKAWA - killed

HQ Sqd WO SUZUKI - killed.

No 2 Coy

CO 1/Lt NAKAJIMA - killed

1/Lt AKIYAMA - killed

No 1 MG Coy

CO Capt HIMEJIMA - wounded

14 Sep arrived at FINSCH

16 Sep organised No 1 Indep Pl - CO 2/Lt MURASHIMA."

As all the above officers are known to belong to 80 Regt, it is fairly certain that the No 1 Bn referred to is I Bn of that regiment.

In addition an enemy map captured in the FINSCHHAFFEN area, which gave dispositions as at 14 Oct, included "1/3 I Bn,"

which may have been part of I Bn 80 Regt.

It seems reasonably certain, therefore, that I Bn 80 Regt has been at least partially reformed and is now in the SATELBERG-BONGA area.

PART II contd

6. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS AND INTENTIONS

A PW captured after the attack on D Coy 2/43 Bn at 655701 on 22 Nov is reported to belong to 8 Coy 238 Regt. The PW stated that his company had been ordered to attack from PINO HILL (648724) in co-ordination with an attack by some part of 20 Div. (COMMENT: Probably part of 79 Regt) westward from the general area 6370. He added "that it was intended that the two forces should link up at the mouth of the SONG River."

(Report from 9 Aust Div in Sitrep 172)

7. ENEMY LOCATIONS AND SUPPLY ORGANIZATION

The same PW stated that at least part of HQ 20 Div is located 500 yards north of NONGARA village (609715). He said that supplies for BONGA were landed by barge near KANOMI and had to be brought by a ration party of twenty men by a round trip of 8 days.

(Report from 9 Aust Div in Sitrep 172)

Signed at 2320 hrs.

W. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

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File
SECRET

2. AUST. CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 44

(Information from 2000L/21 Nov to 2000L/22 Nov 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000)

The first phase of the battle for SATELBERG has been successfully concluded and on the main approach the enemy has been forced back to within 1000 yds of the SATELBERG Mission itself.

On afternoon 21 Nov in the 26 Bde Sector patrols from 2/28 Bn to the west found the enemy still in position about 566677. A Coy then moved round the southern flank and at last light occupied a knoll on the ridge about 574677. Meanwhile 2/48 Bn continued to advance astride the SATELBERG Rd, although some resistance was met in the morning from small enemy pockets. By 1700 hrs an enemy strongpoint was located on the high ground at 554669. The battalion attacked and with tank support captured the position. At last light D Coy was at 554669, B Coy at 555668, A Coy at 559666 and C Coy in reserve at 566665. On the left A Coy 2/23 Bn moved from 562664 due west on the south side of the SATELBERG Rd and reached 556664 by last light after some heavy going. The remainder of the battalion was disposed as follows: B Coy at 574661, C and D Coys at 562606.

Further to the left 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn and 22 Bn continued their active patrolling westwards, but made no contact with the enemy.

In the 26 Bde Sector north of the SONG River the enemy, despite his unsuccessful counter-attack on the 2/32 Bn position at mid-day 21 Nov, sent a further party of 37 men down the track from WAREO at 1555 hrs. These were engaged by our MMGs and are reported to have been all killed. At 1620 hrs another party, some 20 strong, also came down the track from the west, but were engaged by our artillery and MMGs and at least ten casualties were inflicted. Meanwhile a patrol eastwards to 646737 saw no enemy, but a subsequent patrol west to 629729 found and killed 2 Japs. Further west a 2/28 Bn patrol ambushed about 40 enemy moving south at 625715 and killed 8 of them. A PIB patrol reported that the enemy dragged a field gun up the GUSIKA - BONGA track on 19 Nov. In the 20 Bde area numerous patrols were sent out but no contact was made.

At 0800 hrs this morning the enemy made a small scale attack on a 2/43 Bn outpost at 655711, but the attack was repulsed. Two 75 mm guns are reported to be located in the general area 6473.

During 21 Nov our artillery supported the 26 Bde advance and also engaged enemy positions at 555674 and 550676 and harassed enemy movement near WAREO and BONGA.

7 AUST DIV (ref map DUMPU 1 inch to 1 mile)

Patrols from 6 Aust MG Bn report GOMUHU (935492) clear of the enemy.

2. AIR - OWN

CLOSE SUPPORT 9 AUST DIV - 22 NOV

Between 1000 hrs and 1030 hrs sixteen Mitchells accurately bombed and strafed villages, tracks and dumps in the WAREO - JUNGANG area. Results were not observed due to cloud and thick timber. Sixteen tons of bombs were dropped.

Six Bostons, which were unable to locate the primary target owing to cloud, bombed and strafed WALINGAI and AGO villages and the coastal track. Grass fires were started.

SECRET

2. AIR - OWN Contd.

GASMATA

Thirty-two Liberators and seventy Mitchells attacked targets in the GASMATA area. Light and heavy AA positions and dumps at MALANGRUT, GASMATA, DILILO and on the AVAHAIN Islands were bombed and dumps and AA positions near the air strips were bombed and strafed. Four of our aircraft were badly damaged by AA but returned to base; one Liberator is missing.

3. AIR - ENEMY

At 0750 hrs 22 Nov two navy light bombers were over the 9 Div area on apparently a high level reconnaissance.

Signed at 2230 hrs

S. Mander

Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 43

(Information from 2000L/20 Nov to 2000L/21 Nov 43).

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (Ref maps SATELBERG & FORTIFICATION Point 1 inch to 1 mile)

The fighting for the approaches to SATELBERG still continues, but in the coastal sector the enemy supply route from BONGA to WAREO has been cut.

During 20 Nov 2/48 Bn maintained its steady advance despite stiff enemy resistance and the difficulties of the terrain. After reaching 562663 by 1330 hrs the battalion again attacked and seized the commanding ground on the 2400 feature at 562664, capturing some weapons and equipment. The enemy was deeply dug in with well concealed bunkers and was further protected by an anti-tank ditch and mines. By last light A and B Coys were at 562664, D Coy at 565662 and C Coy at 567664.

On the right the situation in the 2/24 Bn area is little changed. A patrol eastwards found the track to 596678 clear, but enemy positions were located at 575677 and 576677. Meanwhile on the left, A Coy 2/23 Bn made a successful attack and occupied the enemy post at 562661 and a patrol subsequently established contact with 2/48 Bn on the road. From KAMUTUA 2/4 Cav Commando Sqn again patrolled west and south without finding the enemy and patrols from 22 Bn made no contact.

North of the SONG R. 2/32 Bn continued its advance NW from 637717 at 0930 hrs 20 Nov and seized a position astride the BONGA - WAREO track at 635732 by last light. There was scattered enemy resistance, but this was partly dealt with by our artillery and our patrols mopped up the remainder. Further towards the coast 2/43 Bn found that the hill feature at 650740 was still held by the enemy. Later this position was shelled and engaged by mortar fire. On the left of 2/32 Bn a PIB patrol found a small enemy party in position at 626724, by-passed it and pushed on to 632727, where they occupied an old enemy post. Elsewhere there was patrol activity only.

Enemy equipment captured during the day includes seven HMGs, seventeen LMGs and two 81mm mortars.

Our artillery supported 26 Bde throughout the day and also engaged an enemy post at 569675 and suspected gun positions at 555670 and 558676.

The night 20/21 Nov was relatively quiet, but active patrolling was carried out from first light this morning. At 1400 hrs the general situation was that 2/32 Bn was firmly holding its position astride the BONGA - WAREO track after repulsing an enemy counter-attack at 1200 hrs. On the SATELBERG Rd patrols from 2/48 Bn moved well forward and met slight opposition only. The enemy apparently withdrew during the night and it is expected that his next defensive position will be found on the spur at 555672.

2. SEA - ENEMY

At 1220 hrs 19 Nov five steamships were observed in MADANG Harbour and at 1320 hrs 20 Nov another ship was seen entering the Harbour.

At 1830 hrs 20 Nov a submarine was again seen off Cape ORFORD at 05.30 S., 152.10 E.

3. AIR - OWN

DIRECT SUPPORT 9 AUST DIV - 21 NOV

Between 1015 hrs and 1045 hrs eleven Bostons bombed and strafed villages and tracks in vicinity of MASANGKOO, FIOR, KAUNKO, WAREO and ZAGAHEMI from a minimum altitude. In all fifty-four strafing passes were made and 6½ tons of bombs dropped on the villages. Results were not observed.

3. Contd

GASMATA. Twenty-four Liberators successfully bombed RING RING village and dump areas between ANWER R. and GASMATA strip, but results were not observed.

4. AIR - ENEMY

One of our MTBs was attacked in the VITIAZ Straits by a Twin-engined bomber. There was one near miss only.

PART II

5. A diary dated 29 Oct to 13 Nov captured at GREEN RIDGE (576682 Ref SATELBERG Sheet 1/25000) on 16 Nov gives further evidence of new enemy formations moving into NEW GUINEA. An extract dated 3 Nov reads :-

"From early morning the enemy concentrated artillery fire on our positions. The order was given for our force to ease up on its attack and to prepare for a long defence. No rice for last month. Heard that 20 Div will be replaced by 16 and 4 Divs sometime this year."

On 13 Nov there is the entry:-

"Received three days' rations amounting to 2 go of rice per day."

COMMENT:

- (a) The owner of the diary was TAKATA Kiyamitsa of HIGUMA Sec, MURASHIMA Pl. It is thought that this is an independent platoon under 2/Lieut MURASHIMA, and is at present under command 1 Bn 80 Regt.
- (b) Evidence has been gradually accumulating for some months to indicate the possible arrival of 4 Div in NEW GUINEA. Even now the information is by no means conclusive but it is sufficient to make the presence of the Division in the island at least a probability. The mention of 16 Div is not strongly supported by other evidence and is treated with reserve for the time being.
- (c) A "GO" is one-third of a pint. One-third of a pint of rice weighs 6.36 oz. The daily ration of rice is therefore about 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.

Signed at 2215 hrs.

Manderones.
Lt-col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 42.

(Information from 2000L/19 Nov to 2000L/20 Nov 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (Ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000)

During 19 Nov 26 Aust Inf Bde continued its attack on the enemy's positions in front of SATELBERG and made some progress against heavy opposition.

On the right B Coy 2/24 Bn after an artillery concentration on the enemy's strongpost at 576676 attacked and drove the Japanese from that position. At last light the Coy was digging in at 578678 in close contact with the enemy at 577678. In the centre 2/48 Bn continued to advance, but the terrain is difficult, the enemy is strongly entrenched and our tanks were delayed by anti-tank ditches as well as by magnetic and land mines. Progress is therefore slow. At 1830 hrs the enemy counter attacked but were repulsed, after this our forward troops followed up and captured the high ground at 563633. During the day one 75 mm gun, two 37 mm QF guns and several MGs were knocked out in addition to those reported last night. On the left C Coy 2/23 Bn withdrew from its forward position at 561666 and rejoined A Coy at 563658.

In the coastal sector a 2/43 Bn patrol to 657738 located an enemy position, held by an estimated 30 Japs, on the northern edge of the plantation. The position was engaged by our artillery. On the outpost line reported yesterday 2/28 Bn has established standing patrols, each of one platoon, at 633698 and 624702 and has patrolled forward to 624704 where a few Japs were found.

In the 20 Bde sector 2/15 Bn is patrolling forward from GARABOK and made some slight contact. 2/17 Bn has established standing patrols, each of 2 platoons, at 614684 and 608678 while 2/13 Bn has 2 platoons at 598677 in touch with a 2/24 Bn patrol at 597678.

On the extreme left 2/4 Cav Commando patrols from KUMAWA to south and west found no enemy. On the other hand a patrol from 22 Bn found that MORENG (534636) and the track junction at 534640 were occupied by the enemy, estimated at one Company. Other extensive patrols to the west saw no sign of the enemy.

Last night (19/20 Nov) was generally quiet, but our artillery harassed enemy troops at 652738.

This morning, 20 Nov, 2/48 Bn again attacked and is pressing forward slowly along the razor back ridge against an enemy who is taking every advantage of the dense bamboo thickets on either side of the track. The total distance advanced up to 1330 hrs was some 250 yds and the forward platoons are now at 562663. Meanwhile 2/23 Bn successfully attacked the enemy position at 563660 and is patrolling further north. On the right north of the SONG 2/32 Bn has moved forward to 637717 but has not yet made contact with the enemy.

7 AUST DIV (ref map GUSAP 1 inch to 1 mile).

A patrol from 2/6 MG Bn has reached WAMUNTI (030470) without finding any enemy.

2. AIR - OWN

(a) On morning 19 Nov eight Bostons carried out a bombing and strafing mission along the coast from GUSIKO to NUZEN. Six tons of bombs were dropped and many places were attacked with MG fire. It was considered that the coastal track was well used by wheeled vehicles.

(b) On the same morning nine Mitchells escorted by Lightnings conducted a barge search and photographic mission along the CAPE GLOUCESTER to REIN Bay area at a minimum altitude.

SECRET

Three barges were sighted off CAPE RAOULT, one of which was destroyed by a direct hit, and three beached barges of a smaller type at GRASS Point were strafed but appeared to have been previously damaged. Intense and accurate light automatic AA fire up to 2500 ft was encountered at CAPE RAOULT, which was bombed and strafed.

Operations on 20 Nov.

(a) KULUNGTUFU AREA

This morning twenty-four Mitchells and eight Marauders bombed villages in the KULUNGTUFU Area. Direct hits were observed on a number of huts and in the villages. The mission at KULUNGTUFU is reported to have been demolished. In all thirty-one tons of bombs were dropped. The track from KULUNGTUFU to DERI and LALANG is reported to be well used, apparently by wheeled vehicles.

(b) KIARA to HARDENBERG Point.

Nine Bostons made a barge search of the coast between KIARI and HARDENBERG Point. The coconut grove and tracks in vicinity of WALD Bay were bombed and strafed. Eight tons of bombs were dropped but results were not observed.

(c) NEW BRITAIN

During the morning fifty-one Liberators bombed the plantation at RING RING near GASMATA. The target was repeatedly hit and fires started, but results were not observed.

(d) ALEXISHAFEN

Eighteen Mitchells on a shipping strike to HANSA Bay reported no shipping observed. The aircraft continued on north to ALEXISHAFEN and bombed and strafed barges, dumps and defensive positions along the coast, destroying a number of huts. Bombs were also dropped on LONG Island. One of our aircraft made a forced landing at HANSA Bay and one at ALEXISHAFEN.

(e) SIGHTINGS

At 0313 hrs 20 Nov a Catalina on patrol reported three merchant ships, two escorts and one 10,000 ton merchant ship at 3.30 S 151.50 E. Two direct hits were obtained on the 10,000 ton merchant ship which was left burning from bow to stern.

One Liberator on reconnaissance reported two heavy cruisers and five corvettes at a position 01.00 S 149.30 E at 1210 hrs 19 Nov, course 190 degrees, speed fifteen knots and at 1320 hrs a 5500/7000 ton vessel at 02.40 S 138.00 E. One submarine, which was sighted, crashed dived on the approach of our aircraft.

3. AIR - ENEMY

(a) At 1650 hrs 19 Nov nine enemy medium bombers escorted by fighters were intercepted by our fighters over the 9 Div area and were compelled to drop their bombs in the sea. No damage is reported.

(b) Early on 20 Nov one bomber dropped ten bombs south of LANGEMAK Bay but no reports of damage or casualties have been received.

Signed at 2230 hrs.

J. Henderson
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 41

(Information from 2000L/18 Nov to 2000L/19 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map SATELBERG 1/25000).

26 Aust Inf Bde continued its attacks on the enemy positions in front of SATELBERG throughout 18 Nov. There was heavy resistance, however, and progress was slow.

On the right 2/24 Bn patrolled actively and supported by artillery fire forced the enemy to withdraw from the greater part of the 2600 feature (579679), although the enemy still held their posts at 577677.

2/48 Bn continued to attack westwards astride the SATELBERG Rd and by 1300 hrs 10 Nov captured the enemy positions on COCONUT RIDGE at 566663 after bitter fighting. Subsequently more resistance was encountered further to the west. At last light A and D Coys were at 565662 and B and C Coys at 566663.

A and C Coys 2/23 Bn cleared an enemy position at 563657 and A Coy then occupied the track junction at 562658, while C Coy moved north and seized an enemy camp astride the SATELBERG Rd at 561666.

During the day C Coy 2/15 Bn occupied GARABOK (596687) and a patrol moved NW up the spur to 584698. The patrol reported that the track on the ridge showed no signs of recent use. There was extensive patrolling in all other sectors.

Our artillery in addition to supporting the 26 Bde attack shelled an enemy position at 604677 and engaged enemy troops moving on the track near WAREO, FIOR and MASANGKOO. During night 18/19 Nov suspected gun stations in the area 5666 were also harassed.

After a quiet night 18/19 Nov, 26 Aust Inf Bde continued its attacks this morning. A 2/24 Bn patrol east from the 2600 feature found the enemy entrenched at 587679, which was then registered by our artillery. 2/48 Bn continued their advance with tank support and drove the enemy from 564663. At 1400 hrs the battalion had reached 563663, where heavy fighting was taking place. In this sector the enemy are strongly dug in along both sides of the road in dense bamboo thickets. Our tanks knocked out two 37mm guns, two HMGs and several LMGs. Known enemy casualties to 1400 hrs are seventy killed.

On 19 Nov also the reserve brigades established outpost lines from 633697 to 624701, 614684 to 608678 and 598677 to 596687 to cover possible lines of enemy approach. In this area it was discovered that the enemy had evacuated their position at 603677.

2. SEA - OWN

Our PT boats made no contacts on night 18/19 Nov, but observed a signal light flashing to seaward on FORTIFICATION Point.

3. SEA - ENEMY

An enemy submarine was sighted off Cape ORFORD on a course of 180 degrees at 05.30 south 152.10 east.

4. AIR - ENEMY

Before first light 19 Nov enemy aircraft dropped three bombs near the QUOJA R. No damage was reported.

5. AIR - OWN 19 Nov

(a) Direct support, 9 AUST DIV

In the morning nine Bostons bombed and strafed targets near SATELBERG itself from an altitude of 50 feet. Four tons of bombs were dropped but results were not observed.

(b) KULUNGUFU

Twenty-one Mitchells and six Marauders dropped 38 tons of bombs on this village and direct hits were seen on huts and dumps.

(c) INTERCEPTION

Six Lightnings on shipping patrol off FINSCHAFEN were intercepted by twelve enemy bombers and fifteen fighters. One of our planes was badly damaged. There were no enemy losses.

PART III - TOPOGRAPHY

6. ENEMY TRACKS

(a) MASANGKOO - SATELBERG Track

(Ref map SATELBERG 1/25000)

From Tac/R it is reported that the above route is a double track with deep wheel ruts. The track is also well worn and can be clearly distinguished. The route followed is considered to be :-

MASANGKOO - 550693 - 547688 - 547684 -
552682 to 553679, where it joins the
SATELBERG - MARURUO track.

(b) Track from SIALUM inland

(Ref map KALASA 1 inch to 1 mile)

The track shown as Route A on the sketch map attached as Appendix "A" has been plotted from air photographs. A number of unnamed villages have also been marked. All the tracks are well worn. The photographic run was bounded by the co-ordinates 440030, 430065, 306005 and 300043.

(c) Tracks between MASA and KULUNGUFU

(Ref map KULUNGUFU 1 inch to 1 mile)

The tracks shown as Route B have also been plotted from air photographs. All the tracks show signs of considerable use, but the coastal track between KWAMKWAM and NUZEN does not appear to be heavily used.

(d) Track KANOMI - SATELBERG

(Ref map MASAWENG RIVER 1 inch to 1 mile)

The track marked Route C has been plotted from Tac/R reports. The track was lost south of TIKU, but further east tracks were observed north and south of the SONG R. approximately in the positions shown on the 1 inch map. Route C and the tracks north and south of the SONG R. are wide and well worn and show signs of heavy use. It is thought that handcarts could be used on them. The track on the south side of the SONG R. is particularly pronounced.

Signed at 2105 hrs

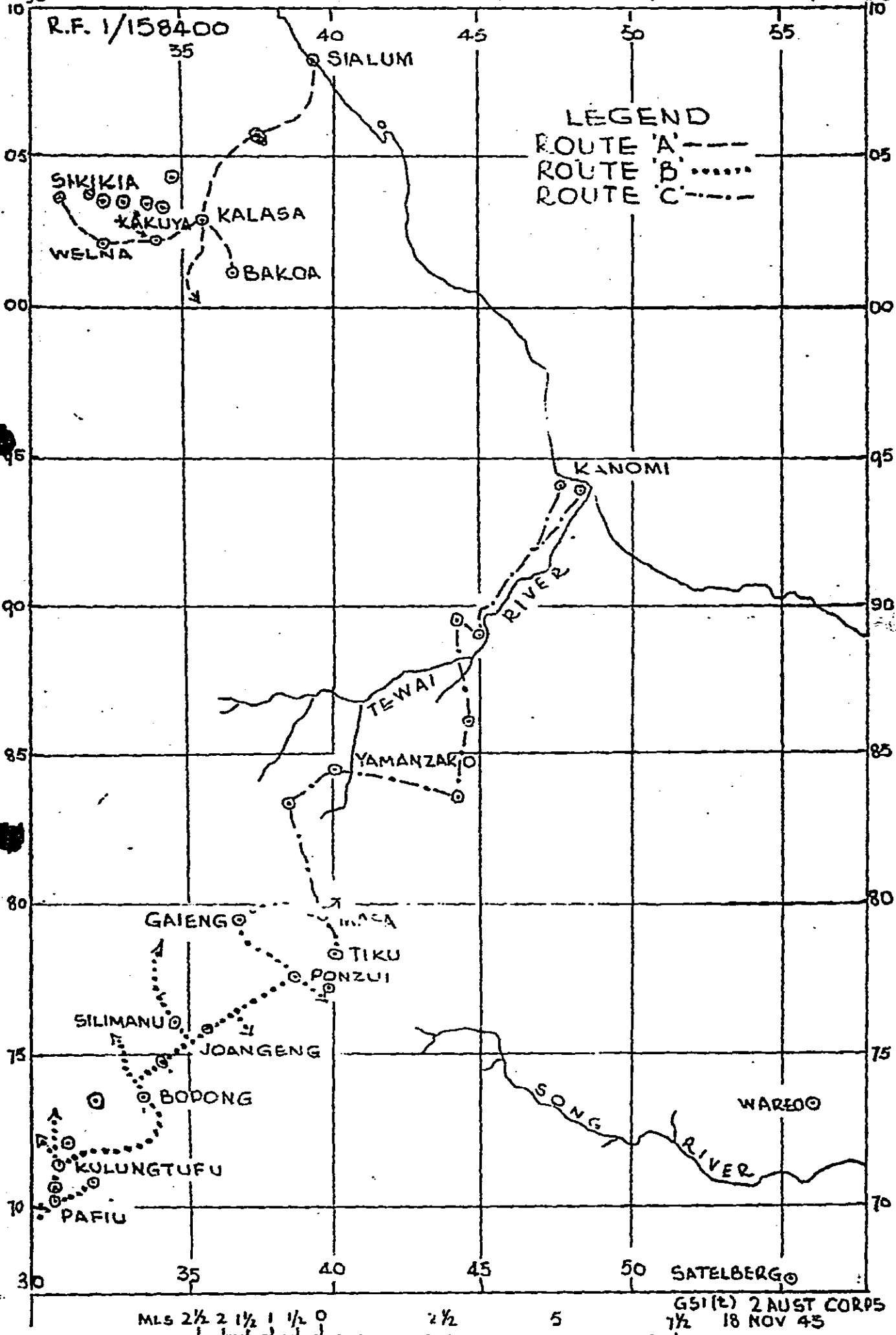
S. Anderson

Lt-col
GS

TRACKS SIALUM — SATELBERG

As per PART III of INT REPORT N° 41

REF MAPS KALASA-KULUNGUFU-MASAVENG RIVER 1" PROVISIONAL MAPS



LA 11

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 40

SECRET

(Information from 2000L/17 Nov to 2000L/18 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map SATELBERG 1/25000).

The full scale attack by 26 Aust Inf Bde, which began at 0700 hrs 17 Nov, was continued throughout the day. Strong opposition was met, but in spite of this some further progress was made after 0845 hrs.

On the right enemy resistance was weakest and C Coy 2/24 Bn moved forward to 579677 and B Coy to 578676. Patrols sent forward then located enemy positions at 577677 and 582678. In the centre astride the SATELBERG Rd 2/48 Bn with tank support made a small advance from 570662 against strong opposition and by last light reached 569661. To the south B Coy 2/23 Bn moving along the NE track from KUMAWA reached the junction with the SATELBERG Rd at 574662 without opposition. On the NW track A Coy overcame resistance and drove the enemy from their post at 566654. The company was, however, held up by a strong position at 563657. C Coy made an outflanking move to the left but found the enemy in strength at 561660. Our artillery supported the attack and also engaged enemy troops moving along the tracks near WAREO and FIOR. The latest report states that there was no change in the situation during the night or up to 0900 hrs this morning, but that 26 Bde was continuing the attack.

In the evening 17 Nov the enemy shelled our position at 581663 with what is believed to be a 75mm gun. Again at 0745 hrs today an enemy 75mm considered to be located on the eastern spur of the SATELBERG feature, shelled HQ 26 Bde at 583662.

COMMENT:

The above are the first occasions on which the enemy is reported to have used artillery in this sector. The 75mm guns referred to may be Type 41 Regimental Guns (of which the enemy is believed to have four in the area) or the Type 94(1934) Mountain Gun. Either 2 or 3 Bn, 26 Fd Arty Regt, is reported to be equipped with six of these weapons in lieu of its normal Type 90(1930) Field Guns.

During the attack on 17 Nov 20 Bde carried out active patrolling and 2/32 Bn placed a standing patrol at 615686. No movement was seen, but one enemy position was located at 648723 and was subsequently shelled by our artillery. C Coy 2/15 Bn moved from 616675 west along the track to 598686 where an enemy position was also found and reconnoitred.

A delayed Tac R report of 10 Nov indicates that there is considerable movement along the GUSIKO-BONGA track and it is thought that it may have been used by wheeled traffic recently.

7 AUST DIV (ref map DUMPU 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 17 Nov a 2/2 Par Bn patrol made contact and inflicted casualties on an enemy patrol about 7462.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 17/18 Nov our PT boats attempted to attack three enemy barges off HARDENBERG Point, but were driven off by heavy shore fire from 13mm, 37mm and some larger guns.

COMMENT:

This in the third gun station to be identified along the coast between VINCKE Point and BONGA. Of these ten (including the above) are reported to be equipped with two 75mm guns and one with four 75mm guns, apart from smaller weapons. The other two stations have apparently 37mm QF guns and 20mm HMGs only.

It is noteworthy that the entire coastline is now covered by the arcs of fire of these guns (with the possible exception of SCHARNHORST Point). Despite this, however, the above is the first occasion on which the guns are reputed to have protected barges successfully.

PART I (Contd)

3. AIR - OWN: 18 Nov

(a) DIRECT SUPPORT 9 AUST DIV

Between 0850 and 0915 hrs twenty-four Mitchells and six Marauders bombed a suspected bivouac area about two miles NW of SATELBERG. Observation of results was, however, difficult owing to the nature of the country. One large flash was observed in the target area and tracer rounds were reported as "exploding everywhere." In all 42 tons of bombs was dropped.

(b) HANSA BAY

A Liberator on reconnaissance reported a convoy consisting of 8 to 12 unidentified ships in HANSA Bay and a considerable amount of dock activity.

(c) RABAU

During the night 17/18 Nov five Beauforts bombed the airstrip and dispersal areas at Lakunai. Thick smoke rising from the target areas made observation impossible.

PART II

4. BARGE UNLOADING POINTS

Tac R reports of 10 Nov state that possible barge unloading points were discovered at -

- (a) 609825 on the bank of the MASAWENG R.
- (b) 636781, where there is heavy undergrowth and the bank is cut away as if for barges to approach and unload.

Signed at 2205 hrs.

S. Henderson

Lt-col
GS

1(a), file

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 39

(Information from 2000L/16 Nov to 2000L/17 Nov 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV: (ref map SATELBERG 1/25,000)

As a preliminary step in the attack on SATELBERG A Coy 2/48 Bn attacked GREEN RIDGE at 0830 hrs yesterday. The assault was supported by artillery and MMGs and the eastern end of the ridge (577663) was captured. Some enemy equipment was found abandoned there. A Coy then continued the advance along the ridge and seized the track junction at 573661. Later B Coy occupied the spur at 575663. During the day our artillery engaged enemy positions astride the SATELBERG Rd about 5666, at 604675, on the 2600 feature (579679) and on the tracks near WAREO and MASANGKOO.

The full scale attack by 26 Aust Inf Bde began at 0700 hrs 17 Nov with artillery concentrations on enemy positions. 2/24 Bn on the right advanced NW from JIVEVANENG and by 0845 B and C Coys had reached and occupied the 2600 feature about 579679. 2/48 Bn in the centre moved west astride the SATELBERG Rd from the forward position at 573661, which A Coy had seized the previous day. Supported by tanks the battalion pressed its attack against opposition and by 0830 hrs had reached 570662. On the left 2/23 Bn moved north from KUMAWA along the tracks leading NE and NW from 568648. Our troops advanced against opposition and on the NE track were at 570655 by 0830 hrs.

7 AUST DIV: (ref map BAGASIN, 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 16 Nov patrols from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn reported that KULAU (3107) and BAGASIN (3909) were occupied by the enemy, but that ORLSOP (3408) was clear.

2. SEA - OWN:

On night 16/17 Nov our PT boats destroyed one Type A barge, which was apparently empty, on the beach near SIALUM. Considerable troop movement along the coastal track between SIALUM and WALINGAI was seen.

3. AIR - OWN: 17 Nov

(a) Direct support, 9 Aust Div

Owing to heavy weather conditions the attacks on 9 Aust Div front were cancelled. Runs were made over the target areas but heavy cumulus clouds prevented bombing in the main. Eleven Vultee Vengeances however dropped 6 tons of bombs near MASANGKOO village and obtained direct hits in four huts with 1000 lb bombs.

One Liberator dropped bombs in the jungle 1½ miles west of SATELBERG and two Liberators attacked the VINCKE Point area. Results were not observed.

(b) LAKEHAFEN:

At 0400 hrs seventeen Beauforts bombed the strips and dispersal areas at the airfield. Large fires were caused.

4. AIR - ENEMY: 17 Nov.

(a) Early this morning three enemy aircraft were over the SATELBERG - FINSCHHAFEN area, but according to reports no bombs were dropped.

(b) In the 5 Aust Div area the enemy made his 6th raid on LAE. Just before first light an unknown number of planes approached from the east at 18,000 feet and dropped an unknown number of bombs. No damage has been reported.

(c) At 0535 hrs three enemy aircraft bombed air strip No 2 at DUMPY. No damage or casualties are reported.

Signed at 2202 Hrs.

V. L. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 38

(Information from 2000L/15 Nov to 2000L/16 Nov 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1/25,000 series).

On 15 Nov there was again extensive patrolling and artillery fire over the whole front.

Patrols to 654710, 623695 and 615684 saw no movement. A 2/24 Bn patrol to a track at 583679 saw twelve Japs moving east carrying supplies. Another patrol to 577676 heard enemy to the west.

A patrol from 2/48 Bn to the ridge at 573666, known as COCONUT Ridge, saw no movement. A second patrol to the ridge at 576663, called GREEN Ridge, was fired upon by the enemy, but attacked the position and killed one Jap. Later this position was heavily engaged by mortars. A 2/23 Bn patrol killed two of a party of four Japs at 566652, but another patrol to 557652, thence to 562652, saw no movement.

Our artillery shelled enemy moving on the WAREO-FIOR track and enemy posts at 604677, 576678, 562665, and on GREEN Ridge at 576663. During night 15/16 Nov the artillery harassed enemy positions at 649761, 604675 and in the area 6573.

2. SEA - OWN

During night 15/16 Nov our PT boats attacked four Type A barges near Cape KING WILLIAM and sank two and damaged the other two, before they were driven off by heavy shore fire. The barges were empty and were moving north.

Other PT boats were also subjected to heavy fire from the shore near FORTIFICATION Point.

COMMENT: The report of "heavy shore fire" near Cape KING WILLIAM is the first definite indication that there is a gun station at this point. It has, however, been suspected, since a battery at this point is required to protect barges coming to SIALUM and because it is needed to fill a rather wide gap between the gun stations at KELANA Harbour and NANDA.

3. AIR - OWN - 16 Nov.

(a) Direct support, 9 Aust Div

Early in the morning thirty-two Mitchells and nine Marauders attacked supply dumps and camp sites near GUSIKO, FIOR, WAREO, MASAWENG R, WALINGAI and KELANO. A total of twenty-eight tons of bombs were dropped and 100,000 rounds of .5 ammunition were expended. Results were not observed.

(b) Interceptions

Between 0930 and 1010 hrs, twelve Lightnings were inter-over DAGUA and WEWAK by thirty enemy fighters and between 0845 and 1050 hrs twenty Lightnings engaged a force of sixty to seventy enemy fighters over WEWAK Harbour. Six enemy aircraft in all were destroyed. Our losses were two Lightnings missing, one crash landed at NADZAB and one badly damaged.

(c) Sightings

At 0835 hrs six to eight vehicles were seen stationary on the track north of FIOR.

Three canvas-covered barges were sighted along the coast between the MASAWENG and SANGI R; two barges were seen at the mouth of the SOWI R and one at mouth of the MASAWENG R. About fifteen barges were seen north of HANSA Bay.

4. AIR - ENEMY

(a) On night 15/16 Nov one enemy aircraft dropped three bombs on the north shore of LANGEMAK Bay.

(b) On morning 15 Nov two squadrons of Mitchells when diverted from their primary target at WEWAK, were engaged by fifteen to twenty enemy fighters between GUSAP and NADZAB and shot down three.

PART III - TOPOGRAPHICAL

5. TRACKS : SIALUM-SATELBERG:

Ref KALASA, KULUNGTUFU and MASAWENG River 1" to 1 mile Sheets. Three recently captured maps (one dated 28 Sep 43 the other two undated) supply information regarding tracks in use by the enemy and his estimates of the march times involved.

The principal routes shown are as follows :-

(a) SIALUM-SATELBERG

The route followed is marked as Route "A" on the sketch in Appendix "A". Times for the entire route (excepting the stage ORARAKO-KOLOMENO) are supplied, and with the exception mentioned, the total time is 44 hours. There is a bridge over one of the tributaries of the MASAWENG R either at 396765 or 410760. An alternative track apparently exists from KOLOMENO to PONZUI to the east of Route A, but it is difficult from the sketchy information on the captured map to plot it accurately. It provides no saving in time.

(b) KULUNGTUFU-SATELBERG

This route is shown on the sketch as Route "B". The march is accomplished in four days, the staging points being JOANGENG, YUNGZAING and NGANDUDUO - (ULUO). Another map gives the times between KULUNGTUFU and JOANGENG and between JOANGENG and YUNGZAING as seven and five hours respectively. The MONGI River has been bridged at 319726 and 333738.

(c) WALINGAI to ORARAKO

This track appears as Route "C" in the sketch, but has not been reconnoitred by the enemy and no times are given.

(d) KOLOMENO-HOMPUA-SATELBERG

The enemy has reconnoitred this track (which is marked as Route "D" on the sketch), but no times are supplied. There are also tracks, which have not been reconnoitred, from AIMALAU, KWATINGKOO and WAREO respectively to BUZULUO.

A footnote on one of the maps states that the tracks (presumably referring only to the routes reconnoitred) are hillside paths, but can be reconnoitred by packhorses, although the animals would have to be unloaded at some points.

COMMENT: It would seem from an examination of the maps that the main enemy inland L of C is Route "A" with Route "D" as an alternative track from KOLOMENO to SATELBERG. The map references appearing on the sketch are as near as can be estimated; the available information is insufficient to pinpoint the positions of villages with certainty.

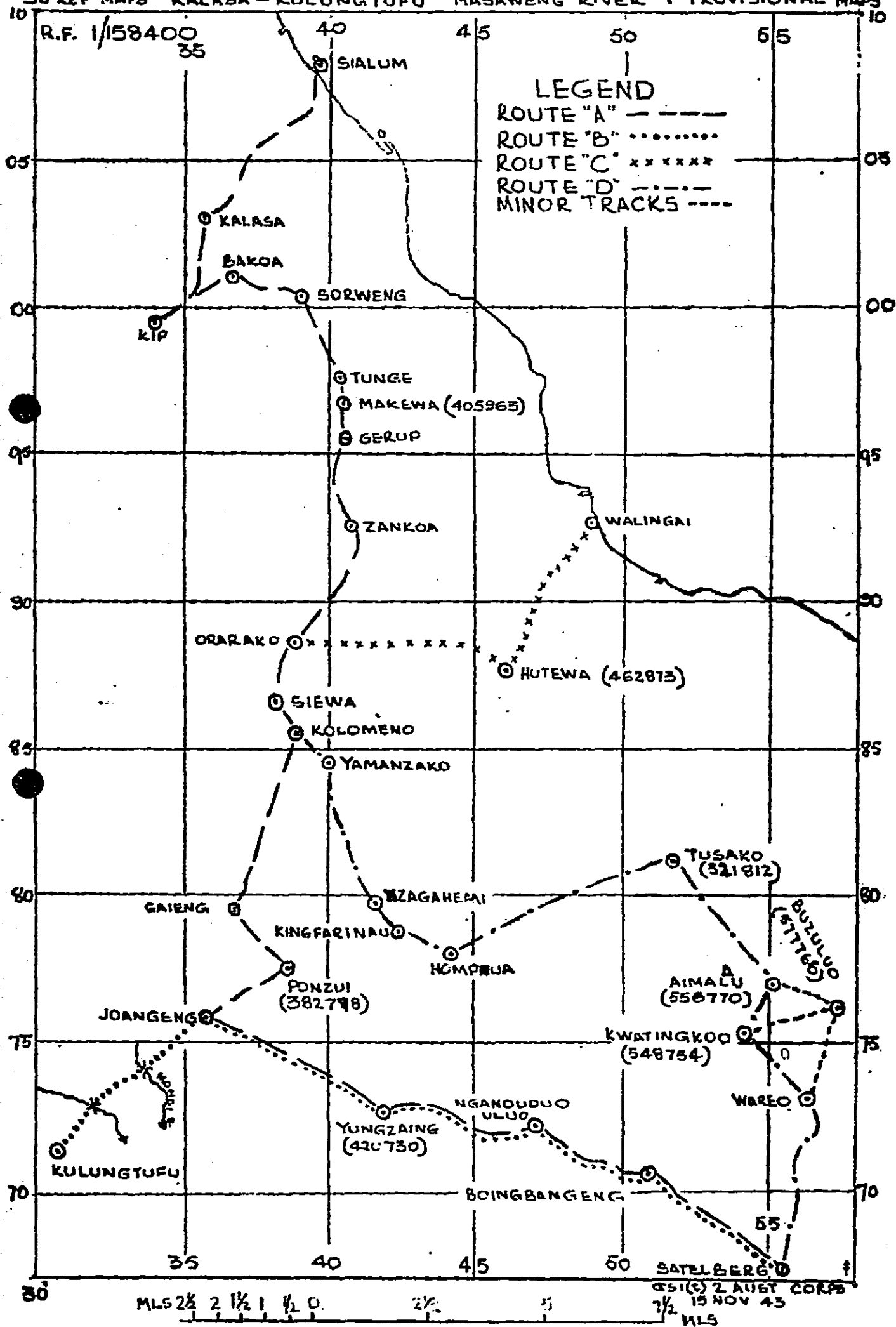
Signed at 20²50 Hrs.

Mander Jones
Lt-col
GS

TRACKS SIALUM — SATELBERG

As per PART III of INT REPORT N° 38

30 REF MAPS KALASA - KULUNG TUFU - MASAWENG RIVER 1" PROVISIONAL MAPS



SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 37

(Information from 2000L/14 Nov to 2000L/15 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV Ref maps 1/25,000 series)

On 14 Nov activity was still confined to patrolling and artillery fire.

A patrol from 2/43 Bn ambushed a small enemy party at 645716 and killed two of the enemy, but a 2/32 Bn patrol to 615636 saw no movement.

A reconnaissance patrol from 2/13 Bn found an enemy position astride the track at 603678 and the position was then heavily shelled by our artillery.

Patrols from 2/24 Bn located enemy posts at 585679 and 584679.

A 2/24 Bn patrol moving to 573667 found that the enemy has evacuated his field works at this point, following the heavy shelling on 13 Nov. Another patrol along the ridge to 571663 killed one Jap, but was fired upon by enemy at 573661.

Our artillery harassed enemy moving near BONGA, WAREO, FIOR and MASANGKOO and enemy positions astride the SATELBERG Rd. On night 14/15 Nov enemy defences at 650744 and 649761 were again shelled.

2. SEA - OWN:

On night 13/14 Nov our PT boats on patrol attacked and probably destroyed one Type A and one Type B barge on the beach south of HARDENBERG Point. After the attack boxes and much debris were seen in the water.

Off CAPE WILLIAM Point another Type B barge was sunk, our craft fired 40 rounds from their 40 mm cannon at a possible enemy bivouac area near BONGA.

Our craft also sunk one Type A barge and probably sank another off REISS Point. These barges were moving SE loaded with stores.

When off KELANOA Point the PT boats were subjected to heavy fire from what they considered to be four three inch dual purpose AA guns.

COMMENTS:-

(a) This is the first occasion that any of the eleven located gun stations from VINCKE Point to Cape SIBIDA have been reported to be equipped with more than two guns. If the report is correct, it may indicate an attempt by the enemy to counter the continuous and damaging attacks of the PT boats on his coastwise barge traffic.

(b) The dual purpose guns reported are probably the 75 mm mobile AA type 83 (1928), which may also be used in a Tk A role. The principal characteristics of this gun are:-

Calibre	75 mm (2.95 in)
Total weight	5300 lbs.
Elevation	0 to 85 degrees.
Traverse	360 degrees.
Horizontal range	15,100 yds.
Ceiling	29,500 feet.
MV	2360 fps.

SECRET

3. AIR - ENEMY:

(a) ALEXISHAFEN:

On morning 15 Nov thirty Liberators bombed the airstrip and dispersal areas. 61 tons of bombs were dropped but results were unobserved.

(b) SIO:

On morning 15 Nov one Liberator on reconnaissance dropped bombs on SIO village but results were not observed.

(c) WEWAK:

At 0800 hrs 15 Nov twelve Squadrons of Mitchells took off to attack the airfields at WEWAK, but returned to base when the escorting fighters broke off to intercept enemy aircraft in the MARKHAM VALLEY.

4. AIR - ENEMY:

(a) UPPER RAMU RIVER:

Early on 15 Nov 30 to 40 enemy medium bombers escorted by 20 to 30 fighters attacked GUSAP. An unknown number of bombs were dropped but damage and casualties are believed slight. Our fighters intercepted the enemy force between GUSAP and NADZAB and destroyed 21 enemy aircraft. In addition our AA guns claim to have shot down one more. Final reports of this action have not yet been received, but our own losses include one Kittyhawk which collided with an enemy aircraft.

(b) FLINSCHAFEN:

At 1015 hrs 14 Nov thirteen enemy aircraft dropped 30 bombs in the sea at the entrance to FLINSCH Harbour. The attack was apparently directed at our shipping. No damage was caused and only one casualty is reported.

(c) DOBODURA:

At 0430 hrs 15 Nov four enemy bombers dropped 11 bombs near an airfield at DOBODURA. No damage or casualties are reported.

PART II

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

(a) Air photographs taken on 26 Oct reveal a probable W/T installation beside the coastal track near WALINGAI (actual location is given as 495931, ref map BLUCHER Point 1/25,000). This installation was certainly not there previously, though earlier photographs reveal some post holes. The identity of this station is not known, but the fact of its installation so far forward some days after the enemy's main attacks on SCARLET BEACH had failed, shows that he is determined to build up his strength in the coastal area.

(b) A captured enemy map (undated) shows the conventional sign for a Div HQ at TUSAKO (ref map MASAWENG R, 1 inch to 1 mile, 521813). Whether this village is or was temporarily the location of an echelon of HQ 20 Div is not known. It seems unlikely that any other Div HQ is in the area.

Signed at 2201 hrs.

S. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 36

(Information from 200CL/13 Nov to 200CL/14 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1/25,000 series).

On 13 Nov activity was confined to patrolling and artillery fire.

Patrols from 2/43 and 2/28 Bns to 65471C and 623735 respectively saw no movement. A patrol from 2/13 Bn located an enemy position at 6C2678 and our artillery then shelled the position. Another patrol to 603672 did not see any enemy. A 2/24 Bn patrol heard enemy at 587676 and 587675, but a 2/48 Bn patrol to 579665 saw no movement and another patrol discovered that the enemy had evacuated SISI. At 557647 a 2/23 Bn patrol killed two enemy and wounded another, and a second patrol was fired on by enemy LMGs at 561653.

Our artillery shelled enemy moving in and around BONGA, WAREO and FIOR and enemy positions astride SATELBERG Rd at 5666 and 5766. During night 13/14 Nov our artillery harassed the enemy at 649743, 649761 and near BONGA.

Natives report enemy movement south along the following routes (ref LAE strat 4 miles to 1 inch) :-

- (a) AGO - ZONGIFIFI (LS3990) - ZAGAHEMI. On this route the enemy are reported to be moving over the open spaces by night and resting by day.
- (b) LAKONA - AIMALAU (LS5078) - BUZULUO (LS5276) covering the first stage by night and the remainder by day.
- (c) KAMLICIDU Point SW along an unmarked river to WAREO. From the same source it is reported that there are enemy camps at ZONGIFIFI, ZAGAHEMI, TUSAKO (LS 4379) MERIKEO (LS4676), 200 yards north of AGO, BUZULUO and on the north bank of the MASAWENG R.

2. AIR - OWN:

HUON PENINSULA

On 14 Nov two squadrons of Mitchells carried out an extended search programme.

The following places were bombed -

NAMBARIWA, NUZEN, KELANOA, CAPE KING WILLIAM, SIALUM, KANOMI.

Strafing attacks were made on WASU, KIARI, CAPE KING WILLIAM, TUNGE, and the track ZAGAHEMI - WALINGAI. Results were not observed and no sightings of enemy movement or barges were reported. Five pilots, however, thought that some stretches of the coastal track from NAMBARIWA to SIALUM were being used by MT.

Signed at 2140 hrs.

E. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 35

(Information from 2000L/12 Nov to 2000L/13 Nov 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1/25,000 series).

On 12 Nov our patrols were again very active. Minor patrol clashes took place and a number of enemy positions were located.

Our artillery shelled enemy positions and opportunity targets.

A 2/43 Bn patrol saw a party of enemy at 658715 and a PIB patrol along the south bank of SONG R to 611700 heard chopping on the north bank but saw no movement. A patrol from 2/32 Bn to 615684 saw no movement but a 2/15 Bn patrol found an enemy position astride the track at 604677. A 2/24 Bn patrol killed two Japs at 588674 and observed three tents but no movement in a clearing at 588675. A patrol from 2/48 Bn west along SATELBERG Rd clashed with enemy at 576662. Another patrol from this unit was subjected to mortar and LMG fire at 569656. A 2/23 Bn patrol located an enemy outpost at 565652 and a second patrol engaged a small enemy patrol at 557640.

Enemy with handcarts moving west at 569702 and enemy parties near WAREO were shelled by our artillery.

During night 12/13 Nov we shelled enemy positions in the areas 6372 and 6574.

7 AUST DIV: (ref map URIGINAI inch to 1 mile).

On 12 Nov there was slight contact on 25 Bde front and casualties were inflicted upon the enemy. A PIB standing patrol dispersed an enemy patrol at 557679.

2. SEA - OWN:

On night 12/13 Nov our patrol craft possibly sank an enemy barge off LEPSIUS Point. The object fired at blew up, and it is considered to have been a possible ammunition carrying barge.

3. AIR - OWN:

(a) GASMATA:

At 1230 hrs 13 Nov 9 Mitchells bombed and strafed GASMATA airfield. Pamphlets and a total of 10½ tons of bombs were dropped.

(b) SIO - FORTIFICATION POINT:

A Sqn of Mitchells on 13 Nov made two attempts to search the coast for barges but on both occasions they were turned back by weather.

(c) ALEXISHAFEN AND MADANG:

At 1000 hrs 13 Nov 57 Liberators and 11 Mitchells attacked the airfields and dumps at ALEXISHAFEN. Clouds prevented accurate observation but both bombing and strafing is reported accurate, explosions and many fires were started and an AA position ceased firing after being bombed.

At 1050 hrs 13 Nov 50 Mitchells bombed and strafed the airfield, the town and the dumps areas at MADANG, and bombed barges around BELIAU Island. Three grounded aircraft were destroyed and many fires were started.

Four Thunderbolts returning from close escort to the above missions strafed barges off LEPSIUS Pt and at SIO. One barge was destroyed.

(d) RABAU:

Early in the morning of 13 Nov four Beauforts bombed VUNAKANAU airfield starting fires.

SECRET

4. AIR - ENEMY:

Our light surface craft sighted two enemy aircraft over VITIAZ Strait on night 12/13 Nov. One aircraft was hit by AA fire from the surface craft but was not seen to crash.

PART 11

The following information from a Korean PW captured near WAMPUN on 5 Oct 43, gives some interesting information of 78 Regt. Most of this confirms previously accepted versions:

1. PW was inducted into Replacement Unit 77 Regt, HEIJO on 18 July 42. He was subsequently transferred to 78 Replacement Unit and joined 78 Regt on 26 Dec 42.
2. From HANSA BAY to YAULA the rate of march was 12 to 15 miles per night with 15 minutes rest each hour. During day troops alternately marched 20 minutes and rested ten minutes.
3. Bn Gun was left at YAULA. 1 Bn advanced south to DUMPU-WAMPUN area and 2 and 3 Bns transported supplies from KANKIRYO to KORAM via GURUMBU.
4. 4 Coy advanced to DUMPU along bed of shallow URIA RIVER and on 4 Oct 43 went into action at WAMPUN. PW heard that 1, 2 and 3 Coys, plus MG Coy (eight MMG's) were in KORAM area, possibly moving back to GURUMBU. 2 and 3 Bns were in GURUMBU area at the beginning of Oct 43. Regimental HQ was at YOKOPI at that time.
5. 1 Bn had the usual complement of rifles, LMG's, grenade dischargers, and two hand grenades per man. 4 Coy, in addition, had two "MEIJI 38" rifles fitted with telescopic sights for sniping.
6. On leaving YOKOPI at the end of Sep 43, each man carried two day's rations and 210 rounds of SAA. Numbers 1 and 2 of LMG Sec and PW's Platoon each carried 1000 rounds. Grenade Discharger Section carried 9 shells per man.
7. PW gave the strength of NAKAI Heidan as approximately 200 officers and men. This was a HQ Group with W/T, Cypher, and Signal Sections attached. At the end of Sep 43, the HQ was located in native huts and tents either side of the trail, half way between PAIPA and KANKIRYO.
8. PW had never heard of 20 Div Recce Regt.
9. While at DUMPU early in Oct 43, PW's Platoon was issued with three type 93 land mines. He understood that each platoon had received a similar issue. They were apparently for use against tanks.
10. Approximately 50% of 1 Bn, 78 Regt were class "B" personnel.
11. PW thought there was no artillery at YAULA.
12. Section leaders of 2 Platoon under command PO SATO were : 1 Sec Sgt OKAMOTO Yoshio; 2 Sec Cpl TANAKA Yoshioke; 3 Sec Sgt MIYAKE; 4 Sec Cpl TAKEMOTO Kohachiro.

SA 1007
for Lt-col Maj
GS.

Signed at 22'4 hrs.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 34

(Information from 2000L/11 Nov to 2000L/12 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000).
On 11 Nov there was again active and extensive patrolling by our troops over the whole area.

A 2/32 Bn patrol to 616686 saw no movement, but a PIB patrol to 617705 observed thirty enemy in a coconut grove.

A 2/13 Bn patrol killed one out of four Japs on the track at 602678. A patrol from 2/24 Bn to the track at 589681 and to 584676 located an enemy position at the latter point. About thirty Japs in the village of SISI were fired upon by a 2/48 Bn patrol which moved west just south of SATELBERG Rd. Three enemy were killed. Another patrol met four Japs just south of SISI and killed three.

A 2/23 Bn patrol to 565652 saw enemy on the north bank of the creek. Patrol clashes took place at 565620 and 567654.

Enemy moving in WAREO, FIOR and astride the SATELBERG Rd and south of BONGA were shelled by our artillery.

It is reported that on 10 Nov 340 enemy troops were seen to move in small groups down the coastal track to BONGA. They were carrying rifles and 35 LMGs. During the same day thirty-two enemy were seen to move north.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 11 Nov there were some patrolling and minor contacts with the enemy only in this area. A 2/25 Bn patrol saw a small enemy party at 714636. 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn inflicted casualties on a strong enemy patrol at AMINIK (401022). 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn found a small enemy party at 507743.

2. SEA - OWN

At 0110 hrs 12 Nov our light surface craft destroyed two Type A barges one mile south of CAPE KING WILLIAM. The barges were loaded with troops and were moving north. When attacked they ran up on the beach and a number of the enemy attempted to take cover inland. Some were probably killed. Fire from the beach by (probably) 13mm HMGs caused slight damage to our craft.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) KIARI

During afternoon 12 Nov six Marauders and eleven Mitchells attacked KIARI village and vicinity. The target area was accurately bombed and fires were started. Twenty-three tons of bombs were dropped.

(b) RECONNAISSANCE

On 11 Nov a Liberator over the BISMARCK Sea attacked a heavy cruiser about 02.45 S, 150.20' E. Three 1,000-lb bombs fell 75 feet short of the target and no damage was observed. Destroyers were later seen to join the cruiser.

On 12 Nov a squadron of seven warships was reported at 02.50 S, 148.32 E, course 315 degrees, speed twenty knots.

Also on 12 Nov a convoy of eleven unidentified ships mainly freighters was bombed at 02.30 S, 145.00 E, course 120 degrees, speed ten knots. No hits were observed.

PART II

1. ENEMY SUPPLY LINES

A native report states that there are 1,000 enemy in the KULUNG-TUFU area (305715) - mostly convalescents from SATELBERG. KULUNG-TUFU is reported to be a collecting point for native foodstuffs from the HUBE district. It is alleged that there is a native carrier line of 1,000 from KULUNG-TUFU to WAREO.

Natives report that an enemy camp is located on the south shore of the lake at 616731 and that the enemy is conveying supplies along the coastal track from AGO to BONGA by means of porters and hand carts. Heavy movement along this track is confirmed by Tac R. PIB patrols report movement of sick and wounded from FIOR through WAREO to BONGA and the movement of fully equipped troops and supply parties from LAKONA to BONGA and WAREO.

PART III - TOPOGRAPHICAL

5. TRACK INFORMATION FROM TAG/R REPORTS: 9 AUST DIV AREA.
(ref maps SATELBERG and TULUNGUFU 1 inch to 1 mile and SATELBERG sheet 1/25,000).

- (a) The track between WAREO and MT BESENONA appears to be about 6 ft wide and is well worn. In the MT BESENONA area the track is a hutch cut one, capable of taking hand carts.
- (b) FIOR is situated on a small plateau. The FIOR-WAREO track runs from FIOR to 566702 and thence to 571706, where it crosses the SONG R over a ford. From the ford the track climbs a steep ridge to the village at 568728, thence to WAREO.

COMMENT:

The village at 568728 is probably KAUNKO (incorrectly spelt on maps KUANKO).

- (c) MASANGKOO is located at 545689 on MASAWENG R 1/63360 sheet and at 547693 on SATELBERG 1/25,000 sheet. This location has been confirmed from air photographs.
- (d) From MASANGKOO tracks radiate to huts marked on map at 538625, 538698 and 543700.
- (e) A wide and well worn track runs from 579700 to join a track marked on the map at 571692. The approaches to the 1,800 ft feature at 581701 are extremely difficult. Numerous re-entrants with sheer sides offer great obstacles to foot traffic. The track mentioned above and the track NW from GARABOK (596688) represent the easiest approaches.

6. CORRECTION

Ref 2 Aust Corps Int Report 33 Part II

"KOROMENAU" mentioned as the place at which 79 Regt Order was issued, probably refers to KOLOMENO which is at 387856 on the track KALASA-SATELBERG. The place was mentioned in an enemy map captured some time ago and is not shown on our maps.

Signed at 2210 hrs.

J. Manderones
Lt-col
GS.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 33

(Information from 2000L/10 Nov to 2000L/11 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map SATELEERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000).

On 10 Nov our patrols again probed the area extensively for enemy positions, and our artillery was active.

A patrol from 2/43 Bn to 658718 and a 2/28 Bn patrol to 632710 saw no enemy.

A PIB patrol moving along the north bank of SONG R saw fifteen Japs at 617705. These were then shelled by our guns.

A 2/32 Bn patrol discovered a well dug in position at 613684, but saw no enemy.

An enemy post at 583680 was located by a patrol from 2/24 Bn.

A 2/48 Bn patrol, moving west along the south side of SATELEERG Rd to 673658 saw some enemy on the SISI track. The patrol, however, was itself engaged by an enemy patrol, but is reported to have continued on to the creek at 574668. At that point a bridge was discovered with the enemy occupying positions on both sides of the creek. A patrol from 2/23 Bn located an enemy position at 563657.

On seeing movement our artillery shelled enemy near WAREO and MASANGKOO and enemy positions south of BONGA. During the night they harassed the enemy at 644735 and 650744.

7 AUST DIV (ref map MT KUBARI 1 inch to 1 mile).

On 10 Nov a 2/2 Pnr Bn patrol found the enemy dug in about 7066.

2. SEA - OWN

ENEMY SUBMARINE

Our MTBs made under water contact with an enemy submarine four miles south of TAMI Islands at 0510 hrs 11 Nov. Two depth charge patterns were dropped, but results were not observed.

BARGE HUNT (ref map KALASA 1 inch to 1 mile).

On night 10/11 Nov our light surface craft sank two Type A barges loaded with stores off AGO (495923) and destroyed on the beach another barge which was unloading stores. The stores were set on fire and burnt.

Our craft were subjected to heavy 37mm and 6.5mm fire and were slightly damaged.

COMMENT

The 37mm fire reported was probably from the 37mm TK/A QF gun Type 94. The muzzle velocity of this gun is 2300 fps and the maximum range is 5500 yds. Rate of fire is 25 rpm.

The 6.5mm fire is probably from the normal Japanese LMG Type 96. This LMG resembles the Bren in appearance.

3. AIR - OWN

RABAU

During night 10/11 Nov thirteen Liberators bombed LAKUNAI airfield and four Beauforts bombed VUNAKANAU airfield. Large fires were started at LAKUNAI but results at VUNAKANAU were not observed.

PART II

4. ENEMY SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Documents just received from LAE area (some of which, however, were obviously found elsewhere) include a 79 Regt Order dated 8 Oct 43 and issued at KOROMENAU (unlocated, but presumed to be in SIO vicinity).

The full translation is as follows :-

79 Regt Order issued at KOROMENAU. 8 OCT

1. The Regiment will commence taking the present field ration at the end of Oct.
2. Every unit cmd will thoroughly instruct his men in and will supervise the conservation of provisions. He will report condition of remaining provisions each morning. Special precautions will be taken concerning the following points :-

- (a) If possible obtain and make use of local resources and prohibit the use of the field ration.
- (b) Post guards on provisions to prevent loss.
- (c) If any man steals the rations of others, sentence him according to army court martial and give a heavy sentence.

(sgd) HAYASHIDA, Colonel
Regtl Comd.

Method of distribution:

Capt MIYAZAKI of II Bn will take notes.

Verbal: III Bn, Regtl Sig Coy, Pnr Pl.

Send to: 9 Coy, Regtl Sig Coy, Bn Gun Pl, QF Gun Coy, Pnr Pl, 11 Coy, 12 Coy, II Bn (Capt MIYAZAKI), and Regtl Gun Coy.

COMMENT

- (a) The emphasis on the need for conserving rations is interesting.
- (b) The units mentioned in the distribution list conform in the main to the units set out in 79 Regt OO of 16 Oct. It will be noticed that the written order was to be sent inter alia to the Bn Gun Pl, Quick Firing Gun Coy, 11 and 12 Coys, and the Regtl Gun Coy.

5. ENEMY ORGANIZATION

An undated loose mimeographed sheet gives the organization of 238 Regtl Sig Coy:-

Coy Comd	:	1/Lt ISHIODORI, Hideo
HQ Squad Comd:		WO UCHIDA, Fukuji
1 Pl Comd	:	1/Lt SATO, Akisabura
2 Pl Comd	:	2/Lt OUCHI, Shigeru
3 Pl Comd	:	PO SHIMADA, Minoru

Total strength : Coy Comd and 138 men.

Signed at 2202 hrs

S. Manderson
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 32

(Information from 2000L/9 Nov to 2000L/10 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000).

On 9 Nov there was again patrolling and artillery activity only.

Enemy positions at 576662 and 573665 were located by a patrol from 2/48 Bn. There was a patrol clash at 588674 and the position was later occupied by D Coy 2/24 Bn.

Movement again took place along the FONGA-WAREO track. Forty-one unarmed enemy were seen to move east. They appeared to be walking wounded or sick. Ninety-six of the enemy all armed moved in the opposite direction carrying 8 LMGs and sixty-seven picks.

Our artillery engaged a number of enemy positions over the whole front and on night 9/10 Nov shelled posts at 636733, 649743 and in the area 6372.

2. SEA - OWN

At 2255 hrs 9 Nov our MTBs sank four Type A barges off WALINGAI. The barges were on a SE course heavily laden with stores.

3. AIR - OWN

ALEXISHAFEN

At 1050 hrs 9 Nov thirty-five Mitchells escorted by Lightnings bombed and strafed the airfields at ALEXISHAFEN. At least eight enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground, AA positions and buildings received direct hits, and several fires were started, including a probable fuel dump. Fourteen intercepting enemy aircraft were destroyed. Three Lightnings were lost. Half an hour later a squadron of Airacobras shot down two more enemy fighters in the same area.

RADAUL

Between 0150 and 0250 hrs 9 Nov three Beauforts attacked a light cruiser at the entrance to KARAVIA Bay (the outer part of RADAUL Harbour) and scored a probable hit. Nine Beauforts bombed VUNAKANAU airfield.

REIN BAY

At 1000 hrs 9 Nov nine Mitchells searched the REIN Bay area for enemy shipping reported earlier by an aircraft on reconnaissance. No enemy shipping was found but three luggers were attacked off KATENGA anchorage (XN4687). Two luggers were destroyed and one damaged, a fuel dump was set on fire on the shore and bombs were dropped on or very close to an AA position.

AIRCRAFT ON RECONNAISSANCE

On night 8/9 Nov a Liberator scored a direct hit and two near misses on a 7000/10,000-ton transport ten miles west of NEW HANOVER Island. The transport was being escorted by a possible heavy and a possible light cruiser.

At 1457 hrs 9 Nov a single Liberator bombed and strafed two barges off the east shore of Cape RAOULT and left them burning. At 2139 hrs on the same day another Liberator bombed a destroyer thirty-five miles SSE of KAVIENG.

At 0039 hrs 10 Nov one Liberator bombed and hit a destroyer sixty miles SW of KAVIENG.

4. AIR - ENEMY

On night 9/10 Nov one enemy aircraft dropped two bombs near our light surface craft in the VITIAZ Straits. No damage was caused.

PART II

5. ENEMY COAST DEFENCES

On night 8/9 Nov our MTBs were fired on from TEWAI River by a possible 75mm gun.

6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS (ref maps URIGINA and BOGADJIM 1 inch to 1 mile)

(a) Tac R reports on 6 Nov show the following enemy defensive positions at ORGORUNA (460810). All buildings had been burnt to the ground during the previous 24 hours. All old trenches in the area appeared to have been cleared and repaired. A square section of approximately 8 ft x 4 ft with camouflaged roof had been added to the crescent-shaped trench on SW side of the village.

(b) Interpretation of air photographs taken of the KABENAU-ERIMA area on 3 Nov gives the following information :-

Activity at 672038 suggests a possible artillery position.

The four gun heavy AA position in ERIMA Plantation at 669030 still appears occupied.

A new four gun heavy emplacement is being constructed on the shore at 673029. Numerous foxholes and weapon pits in this vicinity suggest a probable shore defence system under construction.

Signed at 2155 hrs

S. Manderson
Lt-col
GS

1(20)1
File

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 31

(Information from 2000L/8 Nov to 2000L/9 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000).
Active patrolling by our forces over the whole area continued throughout 8 Nov. Patrols along the coast to 658730 along the SONG R and up an arm of it to 628707 and to 620693 saw no enemy. A patrol from 2/15 Bn killed several of the enemy in a listening post at 613683 and two of an enemy patrol at 611684.

North of the SATELBERG Rd patrols to 580670 and 577668 saw no enemy, but a 2/24 Bn patrol killed one Jap at the water point at 591672.

A platoon of 2/48 Bn attacked an enemy position at 582662 killing nine and wounding five without suffering any casualties. About twenty enemy who remained in the area, were engaged and dispersed by artillery fire, and the position was then occupied by our troops.

Patrols from 2/25 Bn to SISI, along the track to 558636, and to GURUNKOR saw no movement.

During 8 Nov our artillery shelled enemy positions near WAREO, FIOR and PALANG.

Active patrolling in all sectors was continued from first light 9 Nov.

On 8 Nov there was again considerable movement on the BONGA-WAREO track. Thirty-five enemy were seen to move towards BONGA and 160, mostly unarmed and carrying heavy packs and boxes, moved towards WAREO.

COMMENT: The track referred to as WAREO-BONGA actually reaches the coast at GUSIKA (652747). BONGA itself is about 1500 yards to the south. Captured enemy maps, however, show BONGA where GUSIKA is marked on our maps. The tracks are not shown accurately on the MASAWENG R 1" to 1 mile map).

7 AUST DIV (ref map BAGASIN 1 inch to 1 mile).

On 8 Nov a 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol reported that KEPSAU (3005), JOBSO (2892), and ULILAI (3407) were clear of enemy, but that KULAU (3107) was occupied by fifty Japanese troops.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 7/8 Nov our surface craft were fired upon by what is considered to be a 5 inch shore battery from near the mouth of TEWAI R.

3. SEA - ENEMY

Delayed reports show the following sightings on 6 Nov :-

(a) At 1315 hrs at 02.00 north 150.40 east -
2 heavy cruisers
4 light cruisers
2 destroyers and one possible destroyer
were moving on a course of 360 degrees.

(b) At 1317 hrs at 00.10 north 148.50 east -
3 light cruisers and
1 destroyer
were moving at 13 knots on a course of 310 degrees.

4. AIR - OWN

On 9 Nov twelve enemy fighters were intercepted over NADZAB by eight Airacobres and three Lightnings. Five of the fighters were destroyed. Our losses were one Lightning and one transport aircraft was hit and crash landed.

5. AIR - ENEMY of
During night 8/9 Nov two flights / medium bombers dropped an unknown number of bombs near MALAHANG strip. No damage has been reported.

PART II

6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Pt 1/25,000).

- (a) Interpretation of air photographs reveals the following enemy positions :-
A small number of foxholes at 538731.
Some tracks and possible foxholes at 619731 covering the main GUSIKA - WAREO track.
Twelve to fourteen foxholes and weapon pits at 616719.
- (b) Tac R of SATELBERG area reported an enemy defensive position at the road bend at 557676. This position was sited to cover the approaches along the main track.

PART III - TOPOGRAPHICAL

7. ENEMY ROAD CONSTRUCTION (ref map SATELBERG 1/25,000).

Tac R reports show that the road which is cut into the side of the feature about 545684 runs from 541684 to 542686 and then zig-zags down the NW slopes to the MARARUO-MASANGKOO track at 539692.

COMMENT This road was stated in Intelligence Report No 27 to finish at 545686. This later report shows that the earlier information was incorrect and that the road runs from SATELBERG along the SW side of the ridge to 541684 and thence over the ridge as described.

Signed at 2240 hrs.

S. Mandant Jones

Lt-col
GS

I.A. (1)

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No.30

(Information from 2000L/7 Nov to 2000L/8 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000).

There has been further active patrolling throughout the whole area and the enemy has been harassed by artillery fire. In the northern sector during 24 hours to midday 7 Nov twenty-two enemy were seen to move in small groups up the track from BONGA to WAREO. Most were unarmed and all were carrying packs. During the same period 170 enemy were seen to move east towards BONGA. Most of these were armed and in particular they had with them three HMGs (7.7mm type 92 Jukis), ten LMGs and one 37mm QF gun.

On the same day a patrol from 2/28 Bn located twelve Japs near 625703 and the position was then shelled by our artillery. Other patrols to 613682, 596674, 582667 saw no movement, but a patrol from 2/23 Bn found the enemy holding a post astride the track at 562658. A 2/48 Bn patrol also located an enemy position at 584665, which was then engaged by our guns.

During night 7/8 Nov artillery harassed enemy positions at 644743 and in the area 6372. There was active patrolling again from first light 8 Nov.

Tac/R reports on 5 Nov show that there are enemy field works at 614683, 614685 and 615687. It was also reported that the 2300 feature about 578678 had been fortified. Small, well worn tracks radiate from a lone tree at 580704 to 575695 and 585695, where the tracks are lost to view in the jungle.

7 AUST DIV

On 7 Nov a patrol from 2/2 Pnr Bn dispersed and inflicted casualties on an enemy party at BERRINGGE.

2. SEA - OWN

Our light surface craft on patrol during night 7/8 Nov sighted two Type A barges on the beach near the mouth of TEWAI R. They were heavily strafed and are believed destroyed.

3. AIR - OWN

RABAUL

Reports of the raid on RABAUL on 7 Nov are now available. Twenty-five Liberators got through and bombed RAPOPO airfield. Nine medium bombers and three fighters were destroyed on the ground and a number of fires were started. The bombers destroyed thirteen intercepting enemy fighters and probably destroyed five more. Reports from the escorting Lightnings show that ten more enemy fighters were shot down. Five Lightnings are missing.

4. AIR - ENEMY

(a) (ref BENA BENA Sheet, 1 inch to 1 mile).

On 7 Nov enemy fighters strafed BENA BENA, SIGOIYA (989090) and GAROKA causing slight damage and casualties. The report of parachutes dropped in the ERAP Valley on 6 Nov has been investigated and it is now believed that meteorological balloons were released.

(b) During night 7/8 Nov two raids were made on LAE. The first was just before midnight, when three to nine bombers made several runs over the target. The second was made about half an hour later by an unknown number of aircraft. In each case the attack was carried out by high level bombing and an unknown number of bombs was dropped. No report of damage or casualties in either raid has been received.

PART II

5. ENEMY OOB

A marked map captured recently in the 9 AUST DIV area gives the enemy dispositions around SATELBERG on 14 Oct 43 - just prior to the large scale attacks of 16 and 17 Oct towards SCARLET Beach. It may be noticed that no mention is made of 79 Regt, which is reported from other sources to have arrived in the general SATELBERG - WAREO area some six days before. Since the attacks were repulsed, there has been no clear indication of the re-grouped OOB, but it is interesting that the units shown on the map do largely conform to previously accepted identifications.

The locations and units marked on the map are as follows :-

WAREO	:	4 Fd Hospital (51 Div)
"NONGAKAKO" (619743)	:	2 Bn 80 Regt
Spur west of KATIKA	:	9 Coy 80 Regt
Near SISI	:	5 Coy 238 Regt 8 and 11 Coys (?) 80 Regt AA (Pom-Pom) unit.
TIRIMORO	:	300 naval troops 2 Bn 238 Regt (part)
QWEMBUNG	:	2 Bn 238 Regt (remainder)
KUMAWA	:	10 Coy Inf Ltn Bn 12 Coy 80 Regt (part) Part of 102 Regt 2 Coy MATZURA 2 SHLP (part)
SISI	:	HQ 80 Regt 12 Coy 80 Regt (part) Pnr Unit Lb Trench Mortar Unit
High Ground east of MARARUO:	:	QF Coy 238 Regt 102 Regt (part) 30 men of 21 Regt 3 Bn, 26 Fd Arty Regt HQ Shipping Group Material Sec, 8 Shipping Engr Regt 30 Indep Engr Regt (less 5 Coy) 36 Indep Engr Regt (less 5 Coy)
MASANGKOO	:	1 Fd Hospital.

In addition defensive positions are shown at GURUNKOR and a helio-graph station is marked just east of PALAIKO.

Signed at 1225 hrs.

V. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No. 1.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 29

(Information from 2000L/6 Nov to 2000L/7 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000).

Fighting on 6 Nov was limited to patrol and artillery activity.

In the northern sector a 2/43 Bn patrol to 61730 saw no movement. At 0700 hrs about 100 enemy were observed in small groups at 607721 moving NE. They were engaged by our artillery. At 0800 hrs 240 enemy were observed moving east along the WAREO-BONGA track and of these 203 were unarmed. Some were sick and walking wounded and the remainder were probably carrying parties.

Other patrols moved along the north bank of the SONG R to 618702 and along the KATIKA track to 619683 without sighting the enemy. A patrol from 2/13 Bn found no enemy from 599684 to 599675 but discovered that an enemy company position at the latter point had been abandoned. The patrol then went on along the south bank of SIKI Creek to 612672.

During night 6/7 Nov our artillery shelled a suspected enemy barge landing point at 650767.

7 AUST DIV (ref map DUMPU 1 inch to 1 mile). a small

On 6 Nov a patrol from 2/2 Pz Bn made contact with enemy force near BERRINGGE (820640).

2. AIR - OWN

ALEXISHAFEN

At 1130 hrs 7 Nov eight Thunderbolts destroyed four of an intercepting force of twenty to twenty-five enemy fighters without loss.

RABAU

Thirty-one Liberators with Lightnings as escort took off at 0800 hrs to attack shipping in the harbour. Official results are not yet available, but there is a report that our aircraft bombed RAPOPO airfield, which was their secondary target.

3. AIR - ENEMY

On evening 6 Nov four enemy aircraft dropped eleven bombs in and around FINSCH Harbour without causing any damage.

On the same night another enemy aircraft dropped seven bombs near No 2 strip at DUMPU, but there were no casualties or damage.

NABZAB

Early on 7 Nov an enemy force of ten bombers escorted by the same number of fighters attacked the western dispersal areas of MARKHAM FIELD at NADZAB. In all 57 bombs, mostly 100 lbs, were dropped. One Airacobra was destroyed on the ground and nine were damaged.

After the raid three squadrons of Lightnings which were diverted from an escorting mission intercepted the enemy and shot down three bombers and two fighters without loss to themselves.

Subsequently four Thunderbolts on an armed reconnaissance from SAIDOR to SIO shot down four more enemy aircraft, that were apparently returning from their raid on NADZAB.

Signed at 2140 hrs.

E. Handerson
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No. 1.

File 1A1
SECRET

2 AUST COASTS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 28

(Information from 2000L/5 Nov to 2000L/6 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000).

On 5 Nov patrols from 2/43 Bn searching the coastal area moved as far north as 715 northing grid without contacting the enemy. The two enemy positions located on 4 Nov in the area 6570 have been evacuated. Another patrol advanced to 658727 without seeing any movement.

In the JIVIVANENG sector the enemy withdrew during night 4/5 Nov from his well dug in positions north of the SATELBERG Rd at 590663 and 593663. These positions had been heavily engaged throughout 4 Nov, and it seems there was some bitter fighting before the enemy abandoned the former.

On 5 Nov patrols to 619693, to GURUNKOR, KANGORA, (ref FIN-SCHHAFEN map 1 inch to 1 mile 493570) and along the south bank of NAPER to 575552 found no enemy. On the same day our artillery shelled enemy posts astride the SATELBERG Road, in the BONCA area and suspected enemy gun positions at 557676.

There was active patrolling in all sectors during night 5/6 Nov.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 5 Nov following the air strike reported yesterday 2/16 Bn raided an enemy position on Upper FARIA River. The 25 Bde patrol in the area 6668 is now in a position to observe enemy gun position in the area 6764 and a light AA gun at 663661.

2. SEA - OWN

At 2300 hrs 5 Nov our light surface craft sighted two Type I submarines on the surface 3 miles north of BLUCHER Point. Our MTBs fired three torpedoes, and scored two hits. A large area of discolored water was seen 200 yards off shore but no wreckage was observed.

3. SEA - ENEMY

Photographic coverages of RABAU on 5 Nov show a large increase in the number of warships in the harbour.

4. AIR - OWN

(a) RAID ON RABAU

On 5 Nov 27 Liberators bombed RABAU township. Bombing is reported as accurate with 95% of bombs in target area. Many large fires mainly concentrated round the wharves observed detailed observations.

(b) WEWAK

Four Thunderbolts on a fighter sweep to WEWAK intercepted 20 enemy fighters and shot down six without loss.

(c) NEW BRITAIN

Delayed reports show that on 4 Nov twelve Beaufighters and four Mustangs bombed and strafed PALMALMAL Plantation (ref strat maps XL 6482).

5. AIR - ENEMY

(a) On night 5/6 Nov three enemy aircraft dropped seven bombs in the sea off FINSCHHAFEN. An attack was also made on our light surface craft. Twelve bombs were dropped but none of our boats were hit.

(b) This morning ten enemy bombers escorted by ten fighters bombed the airfield at MADZAB. The strip was later strafed by three fighters. One Airacobra was destroyed and fourteen others slightly damaged. There were few casualties.

5. (Contd)

- (c) This morning also there was an enemy raid on GUSAP airfield (ref map FININTEGU 1 inch to 1 mile, 4517). From a preliminary report it seems that one transport plane was destroyed and two damaged.
- (d) A report has been received that the enemy dropped six parachutes in the ERAP Valley area. The report is being investigated.

PART II

6. JAPANESE AMMUNITION

In recent weeks many injuries have been received by individuals tampering with complete rounds of Japanese HE or Incendiary ammunition.

There are at least two types of Japanese ammunition which require such a small amount of heat to ignite their incendiary compositions that they have been known to explode and ignite in their magazines or when lying in the open. These two types of ammunition are :-

- a. 20 mm aircraft cannon, HE - Incendiary.
- b. 7.9 mm aircraft machine gun incendiary.

The 20 mm HE - Incendiary is 5 11/16 inches long. It is easily recognized by the greenish yellow body and brass nose fuze. The body may be plain yellow, or may have either one or two white bands. It may be found in the 20 mm drum magazine, which is used with the cannon, lying around loose in captured areas, or in its original packing cases.

The 7.9 mm Incendiary may be found loose, in packing boxes, or in the saddle type drum magazine.

In newly occupied areas this ammunition is a serious hazard. It must be kept clear of all other ammunition prior to shipment or disposal and should be kept in the shade. If exposed to any heat, it is liable to ignite and explode. If some of the ammunition starts to smoke or explode, the remainder should be drowned in the deepest water available without delay.

(From Ordnance Intelligence Bulletin
17 of HQ Adv Ech Fifth Air Force).

Signed at 2215 hrs.

Handwritten signature
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No. 1.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 27

(Information from 2000L/4 Nov to 2000L/5 Nov 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1/25,000).

On 4 Nov patrols from 2/43 Bn located enemy positions east of the coastal track at 656709 and 658705. These positions were then engaged by our artillery and mortars. On the same morning a standing patrol at 635731 reported that 130 Japs with field guns and heavy packs passed westwards along the BONGA-WAREO track. In 12 hours to midday 4 Nov a total of 51 enemy also moved in the opposite direction.

Our artillery harassed enemy positions in the area 6372 during night 4/5 Nov.

Further to the south our patrols to 626700, 619685, 618683, 626682 saw no movement on 4 Nov.

North of the road near JIVEVANENG 2/13 Bn engaged an enemy position at 594666 with mortar and MMG fire, and 2/17 Bn maintained pressure on the enemy post at 590663.

On 4 Nov our artillery engaged enemy positions at QUEMBANG (ref map FINSCHHAFEN 1 inch to 1 mile 525574) and at 577653, 647717 and in the area 5867.

5 AUST DIV (ref map MT SALAWAKET 1 inch to 1 mile).

North of LAE 24 Bn killed one Jap and discovered 52 enemy dead on the track in the area 7089.

7 AUST DIV (ref map 1 inch to 1 mile).

On 3 Nov patrols from 2/7 Cav(Commando) Sqn contacted enemy near ORGORUNA (453806).

On 4 Nov 2/6 Sqn patrols reported the area 5570 clear of the enemy. On the same day a 25 Bde patrol reached a position in the area 6666 overlooking the enemy L of C.

2. SEA - OWN

SOLOMONS

A delayed report states that on 2 Nov a naval engagement took place off BOUGAINVILLE Island. The enemy losses were -

One cruiser
Four destroyers } sunk
Two destroyers damaged.

No information had been received concerning our losses.

3. AIR - OWN

7 AUST DIV Area

On 5 Nov twenty-five Mitchells and six Marauders carried out an attack in direct support of our forward troops in the Upper FARIA Valley. Targets were effectively indicated by smoke shell and reports from the ground troops show that the bombing was accurate.

RABAUL

At 1300 hrs 5 Nov four squadrons of Liberators with Lightnings as top cover bombed shipping in RABAUL Harbour. Preliminary reports show that 15 enemy fighters intercepted and that two were shot down. One Lightning is missing.

RECONNAISSANCE

On night 4/5 Nov a Liberator on reconnaissance scored three direct hits on a cruiser at 03.00 south 150.00 east.

PART II

4. Enemy Tanks : RABAUL

A series of low obliques taken on 2 Nov during the attack on shipping at RABAUL reveal a total of seven tanks dispersed in the area immediately east of SIMPSON Harbour. It appears from the photographs that they are light tanks.

COMMENT:

There are several types of light tank known in the Japanese Army. Particulars of the type which most nearly fits the ones shown in the photographs are as follows :-

Light tank M. 2595

Length	14 ft 9 in
Width		6 ft 6 in
Height		6 ft 6 in
Armament		One 4.7 mm gun Two 7.7 mm MGs.
Armour		12-16 mm
Weight		7 tons.

PART III - TOPOGRAPHICAL

Ref maps MASAWENG River 1/63360
FORTIFICATION Point 1/25000
SATELBERG 1/25000

Tac/R Reports - 9 AUST DIV Area

- (a) A very well worn track follows the razor back ridge north of TEWAI River to a village about 4386. The area inland from here was under cloud.
- (b) A very wide, well worn track was located on south bank SIKI Creek from 577667 to 586672. The track is considered to be capable of carrying MT, but recent rains have rendered it muddy. Owing to cloud the beginning and end of the track could not be traced.
- (c) There is a newly made road from SATELBERG to the feature at 545684. The road is cut out of the NE side of the hill and runs to 545686. It appears to be mostly clay and shows signs of heavy use.
- (d) Numerous small tracks run from 538685 to the headwaters of the creek at 539692.
- (e) At 643736 a wide, well worn track crosses at right angles the main BONGA-WAREO track.
- (f) Tracks from the kunai patch at 650735 lead into the main BONGA-WAREO track at 644736, where there is a group of coco-nuts.

Signed at 2210 hrs

S. Manderson
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No 1.

SECRET

2 AUSTRALIAN CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 26

(Information from 2000L/3 Nov to 2000L/4 Nov 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OVER AND ENEMY

9 AUSTRALIAN DIV (ref maps SATTELBERG and KOTTIFICATION Point 1/25,000). Hopping up in the SATTELBERG Rd area east of JIVEVANENG continues. On 3 Nov 2/13 Bn cleared an enemy party from a recently occupied position at 596663 and then exploited to the north.

In the afternoon C Coy 2/17 Bn drove the enemy from a pocket at 590662 and subsequently, when twenty-five of the enemy counter-attacked, twenty were killed. Enemy positions in thick bamboo at 589662 were engaged with LMG and mortar fire.

On 3 Nov also 24 Bde patrols to 654714, 649696 and 646685 saw no enemy, but a standing patrol at 655752 observed enemy movement along the BONGA-WAREO track, and between 0200 hrs and 1200 hrs 3 Nov it was estimated that one company of the enemy armed with rifles, LMGs and full equipment passed on their way towards WAREO. Our artillery shelled a number of enemy positions in 20 and 24 Bde sectors during the day.

Natives report that there was a large party of enemy at KULUNGUFU (ref LAE strat map LS2476), and some were moving to KILABANG (LS2066) on 3 Nov.

COMMENT: These may well be stragglers from 31 Div who have come overland from LAE.

2. SEA - OVER

On night 2/3 Nov our light surface craft sank two type A barges three miles north of FLUCER Point. The barges were on a SE course and again appeared to be empty.

It is believed that the enemy has a RADAR station in the vicinity of SCHARINORST Point.

On night 3/4 Nov our PT boats sank four more type A barges and one possible type B off KELANA Harbour. Our craft were engaged by 75mm guns. The barges appeared to be loaded with stores and were heading SE along the coast.

3. SEA - ENEMY

At 1142 hrs 3 Nov three 3000/4000-ton vessels were sighted in WEWAK Harbour.

At 1216 hrs 4 Nov twelve vessels were seen at 00.10 south 149.08 east on a course of 190 degrees at a speed 20 knots. The ships were thought to be 3 cruisers and 9 possible destroyers.

4. AIR - OVER

At 0700 hrs 4 Nov one Liberator on reconnaissance attacked two merchant ships at 00.20 south 144.40 east and scored a direct hit on one vessel (about 5000 tons), which was last seen burning and listing.

At 1250 hrs 4 Nov a tanker with one destroyer escort was bombed at 00.20 south 151.00 east. The tanker was hit.

NEW GUINEA

On 3 Nov 18 Mitchells destroyed four barges between ALEXIS-HAFEN and MADANG and scored hits on two bridges along the coast. One Mitchell was lost.

NEW BRITAIN

On 2 Nov three Beaufighters destroyed seven barges in REIN Bay and on night 3/4 Nov one Liberator bombed a three ship convoy 20 miles north of WILLAUMEZ Peninsula (ref strat map A7:535). One small freighter is believed sunk.

5. AIR - ENEMY

(ref map LANGEMAK Bay 1/25,000). On morning 3 Nov one enemy aircraft dropped two bombs near our small craft in LANGEMAK Bay, and strafed the airstrip area (6554). No damage is reported.

Signed at 2300 hrs

I. M. ...
Lt-col

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 25

(information from 2000L/1 Nov 43 to 2000L/3 Nov 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000)

During 1 Nov there was little change in the position on the SATELBERG Rd east of JIVEVANG. Both 2/13 and 2/17 Bns were in close contact with the enemy at 596663. On 2 Nov portion of 2/17 Bn maintained pressure on the enemy at 596662 while A Coy advanced eastward against strong opposition to 595661. Later it was reported that the SATELBERG Rd as far west as 584662 was clear of the enemy. No details are yet available, but it appears that mopping up is in progress in this sector.

In the northern area on 1 Nov 24 Bde patrols to 644725, 623705 and 619687 saw no enemy. A small enemy party however was sighted at 626682. On 2 Nov patrols to 657725, 641710 and 619687 made no contact.

On 1 Nov a patrol from 2/48 Bn along SIKI Creek to 598675 saw no enemy but on 2 Nov a patrol from this unit located a strong enemy position at 615683.

On both 1 and 2 Nov and last night our artillery engaged a number of known enemy positions with harassing fire.

7 AUST DIV (ref map MT KUBARI 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 1 Nov a patrol from 2/16 Bn kept to the north of the enemy L of C reached 690665.

2. SEA - OWN (ref map MASAWENG River 1 inch to 1 mile)

On night 1/2 Nov our light surface craft sank two Type A barges off WALINGAI (490924) and damaged another. It is reported that the barges were heading south and appeared to be empty. The PT boats also engaged the shore battery at BLUCHER POINT.

Total figures just received show that between 3 Sep and 22 Oct PT boats operating along the coast from LANGENAK BAY to VINCKE POINT sank 15 enemy small craft (mostly Type A barges) and damaged seven others. Six of the barges sunk were carrying troops and most of the others were loaded with stores.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) 7 AUST DIV AREA

On 1 Nov nine Airacobras led in by Boomerangs divebombed enemy gun positions in the KAMKIRO area, but owing to clouds results were not observed. On 2 Nov eight Airacobras again divebombed these positions. In this raid loud explosions were caused.

On the same day Airacobras attacked bridges on the BOGADJIM-YAULA road.

(b) 9 AUST DIV AREA

On 2 Nov 12 Vultures escorted by fifteen Thunderbolts divebombed NAMBARIWA village and dump areas and strafed the track south for about ten miles.

(c) ATTACK ON SHIPPING AT RABAU

Between 1340 and 1915 hrs 2 Nov, nine squadrons of Mitchells (72 planes in all) escorted by 71 Lightnings, attacked shipping in the harbour at RABAU and AA positions around the township. Three squadrons of Mitchells with 1000 lb phosphorous smoke bombs mixed with clusters of parachute bombs and strafed the AA positions. The blanket of smoke which rose to 1000 ft allowed the remaining six squadrons of Mitchells to "skip bomb" the shipping in the harbour.

Photographic interpretation reveals that two destroyers were definitely sunk, one destroyer leader possibly sunk, and a cruiser and two destroyers were damaged. In addition 45,000 tons of merchant shipping were destroyed and 25,000 tons damaged. Eight float planes and two four-engined flying boats were destroyed on the water and eight more planes on the LAKUMI airfield were damaged.

Two groups of enemy fighters intercepted. The Mitchells shot down 26 and the Lightnings 41. Our losses were nine Mitchells and ten Lightnings. Eight other Mitchells were badly damaged. All crews have reported that the AA fire was particularly heavy and

nearly all our bombers were hit.

PART II

4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

On 2 Nov direct support pilots operating north of BONGA saw a red, white and black horizontally striped flag some 3 feet by 2 feet flying above the trees at 649766 near KAMLIGL'U Point.

COMMENT: The distinguishing flag of 2 Bn in each Regiment is three zigzags, red, white and black on a white field. It is suggested that the flag seen by the pilots may be a ground to air signal flag. This would account for the fact that it was flying above the trees.

Signed at 1045 hrs 4 Nov 43

J. Francis
Lt-Col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 24
(Information from 2000L/31 Oct 43 to 2000L/1 Nov 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1:25,000)

On morning 31 Oct the enemy east of JIVEVANENG in about one company strength again counter-attacked 2/13 Bn at 596666. The attack was repulsed with casualties. Both 2/13 Bn and 2/17 Bn made slight advances on the enemy position at 596663.

On the same day a patrol from 2/43 Bn located enemy digging in at 640719 but other patrols from the same Bn saw no enemy at 622701 or 613691. Patrols discovered an enemy ADS at 644744 and observed the eastward movement of small parties of wounded along the WAREO - BONGA track. In addition, many bandages were found and the track appeared to be well used. As there is no evidence of barge traffic to BONGA it was considered that the enemy may be evacuating casualties from the vicinity of the ADS by submarine.

The patrol saw ration dumps in the area 617725 which appeared to be a staging area.

The track from WAREO to FIOR is reported to be strongly held by 500 Japs occupying positions along but not on the track. The positions are sited on reverse slopes and at creek crossings. Further small groups of enemy are stated to be arriving in the area.

A patrol from 2/48 Bn attacked an enemy patrol of about twenty men at 614684 and killed seven.

During 31 Oct our artillery shelled widely dispersed enemy positions throughout the area.

7 AUST DIV (ref map 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 31 Oct 2/16 Bn maintained contact with the enemy on the upper reaches of the FARIA R. A patrol advanced north to 683662 without contacting the enemy. 2/27 Bn also maintained contact in the area 6763.

2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn reported that there was a small party of the enemy still in the area 550727 but that they were evading our patrols.

2. AIR - ENEMY

At 0900 hrs 30 Oct and again at 0930 hrs 31 Oct a single enemy aircraft made a reconnaissance of the FINSCHHAFEN area.

Signed at 2107 hrs

ST Ford
for Lt-col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 23

(Information from 2000L/30 Oct 43 to 2000L/31 Oct 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1:25,000)

On 30 Oct on the SATELBERG road east of JIVEVANENG one platoon 2/17 Bn on the south side of the road and portion of 2/13 Bn on the north almost completely surrounded the enemy at 595662. In the late afternoon an enemy platoon unsuccessfully counter-attacked 2/13 Bn and at dusk a further counter-attack also failed and casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Patrols from 2/28 Bn reported no movement as far north as 635710, but a patrol from 2/32 Bn heard voices and movement on the BONGA - WAREO track during night 29/30 Oct. During the day fifteen enemy in parties of three and four were seen moving towards BONGA. Most were wounded and unarmed. On 30 Oct a patrol from 2/48 Bn killed fourteen of an enemy patrol at 618679. Later enemy were heard at 616680, but a patrol to 605676 saw no movement.

A patrol from 2/15 Bn reported that the enemy was holding a strong position at 555643.

Our artillery engaged a number of known enemy positions during the day, and on night 30/31 Oct there was active patrolling and our artillery again harassed the enemy.

7 AUST DIV (ref map BAGASIN 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 30 Oct a patrol from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn reported that there was no sign of enemy occupation of the villages PUKTABLO (367000), SILO (376998), ENAM (380995), NAWAR (383980), SUMAU (389904).

On the same day enemy artillery, estimated to be four regimental guns, shelled 2/16 Bn from an unlocated position near the road between YOKOPI and KANKIRYO. Some casualties were suffered.

COMMENT: The four regimental guns referred to are probably 75 mm Type 41 (1908), which has now been superseded in the case of artillery units by the Type 94. The Type 41 has a maximum range of 7000 yards.

2. SEA - ENEMY

At 1300 hrs 29 Oct nine large and three small unidentified vessels were sighted at 04.12 south 152.17 east on a course of 360 degrees at 15 knots.

PART II

OOB - AIR

The following table shows enemy air Order of Battle as estimated by V Bomber Command in north-eastern area as at 30 Oct 43:-

<u>NEW GUINEA</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M/B</u>	<u>L/B</u>	<u>D/B</u>	<u>F/B</u>	<u>F/P</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Estimate</u> <u>as at 5</u> <u>Oct (AAF)</u>
WEWAK	4	1	5			3		13	
BORAM	8	3	2					13	
ALEXISHAFEN	-							-	
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	
WAKDE		13						13	
Total	20	40	17			3		80	166
<u>N IRELAND &</u> <u>N BRITAIN</u>									
KAVIENG	17		6			4		27	
VUNAKANAU	5	13						18	
LAKUNAI	20	3	10					33	
RAPOPO	2	9	3					14	
HARBOUR					2	20		22	
TOBERA	38							38	
Total	82	24	19		2	24		152	285

SOLOMONS	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	Estimate: as at 5 Oct (AAF)
BUKA	1	3		3		1		8	
KAHILI								-	
RAILALE	3							3	
FAISI						25		25	
KARA	1							1	
Total	5	3		3		26		37	122
GRAND TOTAL								269	573

COMMENT:

(V Bomber Command Summary to 30 Oct)

The figures for the SOLOMONS are unusually low, but several days photographic coverage have shown practically the same low count. Floatplanes at FAISI are an estimate only.

The concentration of the bulk of the enemy air force at RABAUl despite the recent heavy raids is significant.

Signed at 2150 hrs

J. Marden

Lt-col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 22
(Information from 2000L/29 Oct 43 to 2000L/30 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25000)

On 29 Oct our troops made some progress astride the SATELBERG Rd and our patrols and artillery were again active.

East of JIVEVANENG our troops moved forward on both the north and south flanks of the enemy. One platoon of 2/13 Bn dug in at 594666 and a platoon of 2/17 Bn occupied a position at 595661.

From KUMAWA a 2/15 Bn patrol reported the track clear from that village to 564656, but a second patrol from the same battalion reported KWEMBANG (559591, ref map FINSCHHAFEN 1 inch to 1 mile) to be held by one company of the enemy.

On 29 Oct following active patrolling in the vicinity of enemy positions at 639719 and 624703, these points were engaged by artillery and MMGs. Our artillery also fired on an enemy position at 615730.

During night 29/30 Oct our guns shelled the enemy occupied villages at 598715 and 603717, and enemy positions at 646744.

7 AUST DIV (ref map MT KUBARI 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 29 Oct a patrol from 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn located an enemy position at 582722.

2. SEA - OWN

During night 29/30 Oct our light surface craft were fired upon by 3 inch, 20 mm and 16 mm guns from shore batteries sited on NE side of VINCKE POINT. 3 inch star shells were used to illuminate our craft and firing continued up to a range of four miles.

3. SEA - ENEMY

At 1635 hrs 29 Oct an aircraft sighted two enemy barges laden with troops moving SE off BLUCHER POINT. Nine empty barges were seen on the beaches between BLUCHER POINT and MASAWENG R.

On 28 Oct ten barges were sighted at ALEXISHAFEN and a camouflaged destroyer or corvette was seen stationary west of SEK Island (ref MADANG Strat WJ 7639).

At 1115 hrs 28 Oct a submarine was seen stationary at 04,12 south 152.15 east.

4. AIR - OWN

At 0200 hrs 30 Oct Liberators on armed reconnaissance bombed one light cruiser and two destroyers in PLANET Harbour (VITU Islands). One destroyer was sunk and a near miss was scored on the second destroyer.

Later in the morning nine Mitchells searched for the convoy unsuccessfully but strafed barges in REIN BAY and buildings in the vicinity.

5. AIR - ENEMY

On morning 29 Oct two enemy aircraft made an extensive reconnaissance of the FINSCHHAFEN area.

PART II

6. ENEMY DEFENCES

(a) ALEXISHAFEN (ref map MADANG East 1 inch to 1 mile)

Air photograph interpretation reveals two probable coast defence guns at ST MICHAEL (741375) and two pits, which may also be prepared for coast defence guns, in the recently extended flight gap at 734378. Total AA positions completed are for 22 x 75 mm guns (Type 88) and 20 x 13 mm double-barrel pcm poms (Type 93).

(b) NADANG

Total AA positions completed are for 12 x 75 mm guns and 16 x 13 mm double-barrel pom poms.

(c) ERIMA (ref map BOGADJIM 1 inch to 1 mile)

A battery of four heavy AA guns has recently been installed in the plantation at 669030. On the coast at the mouth of the river at 674020 there is a possible gun position and two light AA guns or MGs.

(1 AAAPU Report No 193)

PART III - TOPOGRAPHY

7. MEANING OF "RAI COAST"

For administrative purposes, the name "RAI COAST" (also known as "MACLAY COAST") is defined as applying only to that section of the north coast of NEW GUINEA from the YUPNA-URUWA DIVIDE on the east to incl BAU Plantation area (west of CAPE RIGNY) on the west. The portion lying westwards of the NANKINA R is known as "RAI COAST Number One", and the eastwards portion as "RAI COAST Number Two". This distinction has passed over to native usage. The southern boundary is generally taken to be the FINISTERRE DIVIDE.

However, it is found in many reports, particularly of the naval and air services, that the name "RAI COAST" has its meaning extended to include the north coast eastwards to at least SIO. As this extended meaning has common usage and is convenient, it will probably be continued. When therefore the strict meaning of the name is intended and it is necessary to avoid confusion, it is suggested that the description "RAI COAST proper" be used.

J. M. Anderson

Signed at 2158 hrs

Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No 1.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 21

(Information from 2000L/28 Oct 43 to 2000L/29 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Point 1:25,000)

Again on 28 Oct there was only patrol and artillery activity in 9 Aust Div area.

West of KATIKA our patrols have been testing the strength and dispositions of the enemy. A patrol from 2/28 Bn found an enemy position at 624701, but a 2/48 Bn patrol to the south as far as 623683. Another patrol from the same Bn moving further to the west discovered a position held by about fifty Japs at 610678.

On the same day a patrol from 2/43 Bn towards BONGA found an enemy position at 637720 but further east a second patrol north to 654730 saw no movement.

South of SATELBERG a patrol from 2/15 Bn to GURUNKOR (564620) saw no enemy, but another patrol killed one Jap at what appears to be an enemy water point on the creek at 563651.

Also on 28 Oct a patrol from 22 Bn ambushed ten enemy at 522572 (ref map FINSCHHAFEN 1 inch to 1 mile).

In the late afternoon 28 Oct our artillery shelled for 2½ hours, enemy positions at FIOR (561700), 565699, 579682 and on the hill at 637720.

During night 28/29 Oct our troops patrolled actively but no important change took place.

7 AUST DIV (ref map DUMPU 1 inch to 1 mile)

2/27 Bn occupied a small enemy position in area 6762. No other change took place.

2. SEA - OWN

LIGHT SURFACE CRAFT OPERATIONS

On night 28/29 Oct two of our MTBs attacked two barges off BLUCHER Point. One, which was probably larger than a Type A, is reported probably destroyed and the smaller damaged. The MTBs were fired upon by 3 inch and 20 mm guns on the shore.

A number of lights were seen just north of Cape KING WILLIAM and it was thought that there is a large shore installation at this point.

3. SEA - ENEMY (ref strat series 4 miles to 1 inch)

ENEMY SIGHTINGS

At 1930 hrs 28 Oct two unidentified warships were seen entering the bay near Cape TORKORO (XK9160) off UBILI (north coast of NEW BRITAIN)

4. AIR - OWN

RABAU (Preliminary reports from four squadrons of Liberators)

At midday 29 Oct fifty-seven Liberators escorted by sixty-seven Lightnings accurately bombed VUNAKANAU airfield, revetment and dispersal areas. All crews report the target area completely covered by large fires, black smoke and dust.

The Lightnings intercepted a force of forty to fifty fighters at 20,000 feet over the target area. Twelve enemy fighters were reported destroyed and five probably destroyed. One Lightning was lost and four others were damaged.

AA over the target area was reported to be accurate. Shipping in the harbour was seen to be dispersing.

KADANG Area

At 1100 hrs 29 Oct seventeen Mitchells attacked dumps, concentrations and bridges along the GOGOL R to JACOB village. Many fires were started but results were unobserved.

5. AIR - ENEMY

Early 29 Oct one enemy aircraft dropped twenty bombs at ORO BAY and HARVEY BAY. No damage or casualties are reported.

PART II

6. ENEMY OOB

An undated entry (possibly made in Jun 43) in a diary captured recently in the DUMPU area, states that 52 Div will relieve 41 Div and that 5 Div will relieve 20 Div (7 Aust Div 1335).

COMMENT: A preliminary translation only has been made of this document and the information is treated with considerable reserve. 52 Div may be a mistake for 52 Regt which was stated in a diary captured at FINSCHHAFEN and dated 8 Jan 43 to have landed at MADANG.

7. ENEMY DEFENCES WEST OF DAUMOINA (ref strat maps WO 47, 48 and 56)

Air photographs taken on 24 Oct indicate that the track KWATO - MATALOI - KISA - ORGORUNA - KEPOKA shows signs of heavy use by foot and possibly pack transport. At NW end of ORGORUNA No 2 astride the track is a right angle trench system 50 yards by 80 yards and there are signs of defensive positions at MATALOI No 1 and No 2.

The track from KISA to SANA is very well used and at KISA track activity indicates its probable use as a staging camp and storage area. Another track BUNAGUNA - SAUSI - KARONA - YAGUNBU is also well used.

Signed at 22 00 hrs

J. M. Jones

Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No 1.

In File

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 20

(Information from 2000L/27 Oct 43 to 2000L/28 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

On 27 Oct movement in all sectors was confined to patrol activity and there were several minor clashes.

(Ref map - MASAWENG R 1 inch to 1 mile)

In the northern sector PIB patrols reported that thirty-seven enemy were dug in along the creek at 646744. One of these patrols also reported that both the BONGA-WAREO track and the coastal track north from BONGA appear to be well used.

Enemy positions in the village at 603716 were engaged by our artillery.

(Ref map - SATELBERG 1/25000)

On the same day a patrol from 2/28 Bn as far west as 621694 saw no enemy. Further to the south a 2/48 Bn patrol ambushed an enemy party at 617683, inflicting casualties, and observed another enemy force at 615686. A second patrol from the same unit west along the KATIKA track inflicted casualties on an enemy patrol at 623683.

During night 27/28 Oct there was no change in the general situation.

7 AUST DIV

It is now reported that the enemy force which opposed the advance of 25 Bde along the track from WAMPUN to GURUMBU may have withdrawn by a track leading to the north coast. However, the extent of the withdrawal from GURUMBU is not known, and our troops are investigating.

2. SEA - OWN

Our light surface craft, barge-hunting along the RAI coast on night 27/28 Oct, again report that they were followed by lights on the shore. The enemy coast watching system is apparently equipped with signal lights. On the approach of our surface craft the light at each watching post is switched on, and when our craft leave the area the lights are extinguished. It is reported that beach lights are used for leading barges into off-loading points.

3. SEA - ENEMY

SHIPPING SIGHTINGS

(a) At 1620 hrs 26 Oct an eight ship convoy was sighted at 02.30 south 150.00 east on a course of 273 degrees. The convoy consisted of

- 2 - 1000/1500 ton freighter transports
- 1 - 1500/2500 ton stackaft vessel
- 1 - 2000/4500 ton freighter transport
- 1 - 7000/9000 ton transport
- 1 - 4000/6000 ton transport and
- 2 small vessels, probably gunboats

(b) At 1645 hrs a three vessel convoy was sighted at 02.40 south 150.20 east consisting of

- 2 unidentified merchant vessels
- 1 probable gunboat

(c) Ten minutes later at 02.50 south 149.45 east a third convoy was sighted which consisted of

- 2 - 1000/1500 ton freighter transport
- 1 - small destroyer or gunboat

COMMENT : It seems possible that the large convoy at least was returning from RABAU towards PALAU after bringing in supplies and perhaps substantial reinforcements.

4. AIR - OWN

BARGE SEARCH (ref maps 4 miles to 1 inch, Strat Series)

Between 1645 and 1800 hrs 28 Oct four Thunderbolts searched the north coast of NEW BRITAIN to TALASEA and four searched the RAI coast from SIO to FORTIFICATION PT. Three barges approximately 70 ft long were strafed and destroyed off TALASEA I (XO 0496).

Huts at CAPE NEUMAYER (XN 5386), one barge off CAPE MENSING (XM 9895) and two in BORGEN BAY were strafed with unobserved results.

On the RAI coast SIO mission was strafed and a house left burning; about 20 huts were strafed on SIALUM Island and large fires started, and two barges were destroyed on the beach near KANOMI (LS 4297). No movement was seen on the coastal track from SIO to FORTIFICATION POINT but pilots report that the track appears well used.

ADDITIONAL AIROPS 27 OCT 45

At 1735 hrs 27 Oct eight Airacobras on patrol over the FINSCHHAFEN area intercepted twelve to fifteen enemy bombers and fifteen to twenty fighters. Six enemy aircraft were destroyed for the loss of one Airacobra.

5. AIR - ENEMY

Ref Intelligence Report No 19 para 3, it is now reported that the enemy dropped more than 70 parachutes over the SATELBERG area on evening 27 Oct.

PART II

6. ENEMY POSITIONS (Ref map URIGINA one inch)

Tac/R reveals the following enemy positions :

(a) DAUMOLINA area

Near a small village at 520782 there are five foxholes and a semi-circular trench about twenty feet long straddling the track. The ridge at this point is NOT thickly timbered, and there is a good field of fire to the south. Another village was seen at 515773, where there were four or five more foxholes. No weapons were observed in any of these positions.

(b) KETOBA area

About 457760 a wireless station consisting of two masts thirty feet high with a "lean to" in the middle was seen in a clearing. The area generally is heavily studded with foxholes and trenches providing all round defence, but NO weapons were seen. Pilots estimated six AA LMG as well as rifle fire from the general area of the village.

(c) ISARIBA

A nearby village appears to be defended in the same way as KETOBA but on a smaller scale.

(d) KOROPA

There is a semi-circular slit trench and four or five foxholes at 524786.

7. IDENTIFICATIONS

The following additional identifications in the SATELBERG - BONGA area have been obtained from captured documents :-

	<u>ESTIMATED STRENGTH</u>	<u>EVIDENCE</u>
(a) 20 Engr Regt	750	79 Regt 00 dated 16 Oct
(b) 238 Regt, 2 Bn Gun Pl	28	Notebook of "Routine Meetings" dated 20 Sep
and, probably, (c) 11 Coy, 21 Regt	148	ditto

PART III - TOPOGRAPHY

8. MARCHING TIMES

A captured diary of an unknown member of 1 Bn 78 Regt discloses that his company marched from HANSA BAY to YOKOPI in twenty-one days. DAUMOINA was reached in twenty days. The route taken was along the MT road HANSA BAY-MADANG-BOGADJIM-YAULA-YOKOPI.

COMMENT : Distance by road from HANSA BAY to YOKOPI is about 180 miles.

Signed at 2234 hrs

Mander Jones.
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Intelligence Report No 1.

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TQ
FSS2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 19

(Information from 2000L/26 Oct 43 to 2000L/27 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY9 AUST DIV (ref map SATELBERG sheet 1:25,000)

The enemy has withdrawn from his forward positions north and south of KATIKA track to higher ground. The withdrawal began on night 25/26 Oct when the enemy evacuated his position at 636678 after heavy mortar fire from 2/48 Bn. Next morning a patrol reconnoitred west along SIKI Creek to the 631 easting grid line and the battalion then moved forward and occupied a new line from 633673 through 627677 to 632681. North of the KATIKA track a patrol from 2/32 Bn on 26 Oct found that the enemy had also withdrawn from his positions in that sector and the battalion advanced to a line 633682 to 634685. The enemy position is reported to be about 630681.

On the 2/28 Bn front (642688 through 637690 to 642694) our troops patrolled extensively as far west as 628 easting grid, but saw no enemy. On the other hand enemy positions are still reported at 637690, 636689, from 635694 to 630691 and at 634696.

On the same day a patrol from 2/43 Bn dispersed an enemy party of fifteen at 650730. (ref map MASAWENG R 1 inch to 1 mile). A small enemy party was subsequently seen near the village at 653734.

5 AUST DIV (ref map MT SALAWAKET 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 26 Oct there was further clearing up activity north of LAE. A patrol from 24 Bn was in the area 7084, NW of BAINDUANG, and killed four Japs.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 25/26 Oct our light surface craft continued their normal submarine and barge hunts in the VITIAZ Straits and along the coast from LAKONA to SIO. An enemy searchlight was seen in the vicinity of LONG Island. Lights were seen at NAMBARIWA anchorage and signal lights on the shore followed our boats along the RAI coast as far north as HARDENBERG.

At 1825 and 1900 hrs 27 Oct three unidentified vessels were sighted from an OP in the ARNDT Point area on a bearing of 23 degrees magnetic.

3. AIR - OWNINTERCEPTION AT SATELBERG

At 1740 hrs 27 Oct eight Kittyhawks intercepted nine enemy bombers and fifteen fighters over SATELBERG. Our aircraft shot down one bomber and five fighters without loss. The enemy aircraft released a number of parachutes over the SATELBERG area just prior to the interception.

Comment: It would appear that the enemy was again engaged on a supply dropping mission. This is the third time parachutes have been seen in this area. The other occasions were night 18/19 and morning 22 Oct.

4. AIR - ENEMY

Early 27 Oct ten enemy aircraft were over the area NEW BRITAIN - ORO BAY - Cape NELSON. They appear to have been either on reconnaissance or seeking opportunity targets.

PART II5. ENEMY POSITIONS(a) SATELBERG Area (ref map SATELBERG sheet 1:25,000)

Interpretation of air photographs suggests two possible bunkers $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from PALANKO on the track to SATELBERG. At point 612768 grass has been cleared on the side of a small ridge in such manner as to suggest an artillery position.

(b) BONGA - LAKONA Area (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

There seems to be a gun position at 638774 some 200 yards from the coast. The position is so obvious however, that it may be a dummy.

(c) DAUMOINA (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On the ridge at 123121 there appears to be a cutting into the hill with a log roof cover. The low jungle has been cleared, but the trees remain. A foot track runs from the position to DAUMOINA. The road climbs very steeply at this point and bends back over this feature. The position commands DAUMOINA and the road to the south

- 2 -

downhill from the bend at 122100. It is thought that this cutting may contain a gun position to which ammunition could be lowered from the road above.

Signed at 2156 hrs

S. Manderones

Distribution as for Intelligence Report No 1

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 18

(Information from 2000L/25 Oct 43 to 2000L/26 Oct 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map SATELBERG 1/25,000)

On 25 Oct 2/32 Bn was in close contact with the enemy along its whole front west of KATIKA. Elsewhere there was active and extensive patrolling and enemy defensive positions were found at 636690, 635689 and 635679, as well as an enemy party twenty-five strong at 653731 (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series). In the evening our mortars accurately engaged the enemy post at 636677. On 25 Oct also a patrol from 22 Bn encountered a Japanese party at 559605 which at once withdrew.

5 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

In the MONGI R area, there are indications that the native track from YALJON (362541) to JOANGENG and SATELBERG has been used by the enemy. On 25 Oct a patrol from 29/46 Bn moved from YALJON to SAMBEANG (335525) but saw no enemy.

7 AUST DIV (ref map DUMPU 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 25 Oct after an air strike a patrol from 2/16 Bn raided enemy positions estimated at two companies strength in the area 7063, and inflicted casualties. A patrol from 2/14 Bn reached key point 4 about 7659 without making contact.

2. SEA - ENEMY

BARGE SIGHTINGS

At 1345 hrs 24 Oct six stationary barges were sighted on the east side of EITEL FREIDRICH HARBOUR (approximately 60 miles NW of MADANG). They were protected by AA fire.

3. AIR - OWN

On 25 Oct eight Kittyhawks divebombed and strafed an enemy position in the FARIA R valley.

RABAU RAID : 25 OCT (See 2 Aust Corps Intelligence Report No 17 para 4)

Reports now available show that at 1230 hrs fifty Liberators dropped 140 tons of bombs on LAKUNAI airfield and the dump area on the NE side of SIMPSON Harbour. Large fires were started in the target areas and preliminary examination of air photographs taken shows twenty-one enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground. A large number of enemy fighters intercepted and of these thirty-seven were shot down. One Liberator crash landed in the sea and eight members of the crew were rescued.

PART II

4. ENEMY STRENGTHS

A captured enemy Movement Order gives the strength of 79 Regimental Group in 9 Aust Div area as 6050.

(9 Aust Div 25 Oct 43)

COMMENT:

Captured 20 Div Operation Order of 12 Oct 43 stated that the main strength of 79 Regt plus 2 Bn 26 Arty Regt were to move into the area to reinforce 80 Regt and attack our positions. There has been other evidence that there were some engineers, sigs and medical personnel attached, together with 500 transport troops. The main body of 79 Regt was moved by barge, landed opposite SIALUM, and marched to the SATELBERG area by the inland route. It is considered that the strength of the force was very much below the figure given in the above movement order.

In the absence of corroborating evidence therefore, no alteration has been made in the strength of 79 Regt in the area. It is considered probable that the "Regimental Group" of 6050 men includes supporting and non-combat troops and possibly some part of 80 Regt.

5. ENEMY POSITIONS

In addition to the coast defences that were listed in 2 Aust Corps Int Report 17, the River entrance near NAMBARIWA is reported to be protected against PT boats by two guns.

(9 Aust Div 25 Oct 43)

6. ENEMY L OF C

The captured enemy movement order referred to in para 4 above states that there were "supply beaches" at NAMBARIWA and SIALUM (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile 393084).

(9 Aust Div 25 Oct 43)

7. ENEMY PERSONALITIES AND REINFORCEMENT SYSTEM

Attached as Appendix "A" is a list of officers of 79 Regt dated 10 Jul 43. This list belonged to Maj TAKEHANA, CO 2 Bn 79 Regt and was captured at FINSCHHAFEN recently.

The list ended with the following note :-

"Standard number of officers	108
Reserves	11
Shortages	None"

Apart therefore from the usefulness of this list as an aid to identification of sub-units, it is significant that this regiment, which arrived in NEW GUINEA nine months ago, is still more than up to strength in officers. This is confirmation of the long range reinforcement policy of which there have been several indications since the beginning of the SALAMAUA campaign.

Signed at 2324 hrs

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Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Intelligence Report No 1.

APPENDIX "A"

79 REGIMENT LIST OF OFFICERS

(From a document captured at FINSCHHAFEN and dated 10 Jul 43. The list belonged to Maj TAKEHANA, CO 2 Bn 79 Regt).

Regt	Lt-col HAYASHIDA, Kaneki and 12 offrs
1 Bn	Maj TAKAHASHI, Jintaro and 7 offrs
2 Bn	Maj TAKEHANA, Yoshinori and 7 offrs
3 Bn	Maj UCHIDA, Tadaaki and 7 offrs
1 Coy	Capt YAMAMOTO, Yoshishiro and 3 offrs
2 Coy	1/Lt OGAWA, Masao and 3 offrs
3 Coy	KANRI, Chieyuki (TN Capt MIZUI, Shinichi is crossed out) and 3 offrs
4 Coy	1/Lt FUJIZAWA, Kiyoshi and 3 offrs
1 MG Coy	TSUBOTA, Masaru (TN Capt MIYAZAKI is crossed out) and 4 offrs
1 Bn Gun Pl	2/Lt HAYASHI, Takeo
5 Coy	1/Lt FUKU, Takashi and 3 offrs
6 Coy	1/Lt FUJIO, Iwao and 3 offrs
7 Coy	1/Lt TAKAJIMA, Shin and 3 offrs
8 Coy	1/Lt TANAKA, Takashi and 3 offrs
2 MG Coy	Capt KANADA, Masao and 4 offrs
2 Bn Gun Pl	1/Lt YAMASHITA, Setsuro
9 Coy	1/Lt KAYA, Toshinori and 3 offrs
10 Coy	1/Lt SUGINO, Kazuyuki and 3 offrs
11 Coy	Capt OKAMI, Nobuo and 3 offrs
12 Coy	1/Lt NAGATOMO, Tsugio and 3 offrs
3 MG Coy	Capt ISHII, Nobuo and 4 offrs
3 Bn Gun Pl	2/Lt HISATOMI, Yosuke
Regt Gun Coy	Capt ARIYAMA, Shogoro and 2 offrs
QF Gun	1/Lt OMACHI, Akiro and 3 offrs
Inf Mortar	2/Lt FUJIYAMA, Tadao
Inf Regt	
Sig Coy	1/Lt SAISHOJI, Kunitoshi and 3 offrs
Pnr Unit	1/Lt KAMADA, Yoshiji and 4 offrs

(ATIS 2 Aust Corps No 13)

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 17

(Information from 2000L/24 Oct 43 to 2000L/25 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

File

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref SATELBERG sheet 1:25,000)

On 24 Oct there was active patrolling by our troops on all sectors. A patrol from 2/43 Bn towards BONGA reported that although no contact was made they saw what was probably a carrying party of twenty-two enemy, including escort, moving down the track eastwards to BONGA.

During night 24/25 Oct there was intermittent firing in the KATIKA area, and some enemy movement on 2/43 Bn sector of the perimeter.

A 26 Bde patrol located an enemy position at 635678 and killed four.

5 AUST DIV (ref BOANA sheet 1 inch to 1 mile)

North of LAE mopping up continues. D Coy 24 Bn killed four Japs and found seventeen dead in the AVIN area (671789). Following a report of ten enemy north of YALU an investigating patrol captured one Jap.

There is no further report of contact in the MONGI R area.

2. SEA - OWN

ATTACK ON BARGES (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On night 23/24 Oct our light surface craft attacked four enemy barges off NANDA (436011) and sank two. The barges sunk were one Type A and another larger type. The barges returned our fire, and our craft were also fired upon by a shore battery. Our casualties were one killed and two wounded.

COMMENT: This is the first indication of a shore battery at NANDA. Previous locations of guns in a coast defence role from SIO to FORTIFICATION Point and the dates on which they have been reported in action are as follows:-

night 10/11 Sep	BLUCHER Point	2 guns
10/11 Sep	Two miles south of BLUCHER Point	1 gun
10/11 Sep	Three miles north of FORTIFICATION Point	2 guns
17/18 Sep	Near TEWAI R mouth	2 guns
18/19 Sep	Near Cape SIBIDA	2 guns
4/5 Oct	Between SIO and VINCKE Point	unstated (? 2 guns)
21/22 Oct	KELANA Harbour	2 guns

and now

23/24 Oct	near NANDA	? 2 guns
-----------	------------	----------

In each case the guns are thought to be 75 mm and may belong to 7 Bty 26 Fd Arty Regt and the Regtl Gun Coys of 79 Regt and 238 Regt. Some of the guns may, of course, have been moved between the dates in which they were seen to fire. Thus the total may well be less than 15 guns.

ATTACK ON SUBMARINE

At 2030 hrs 23 Oct an enemy submarine was sighted by our light surface craft SE of TAMI Island at 07,12 south 148.03 east on an easterly course. Our craft attacked the submarine by fire and hit the conning tower. The submarine submerged and moved off eastwards.

3. SEA - ENEMY

SHIPPING SIGHTINGS

There is a sharp increase in shipping sightings around NEW BRITAIN. Between 1300 hrs 23 Oct and 1330 hrs 24 Oct total sightings were as follows:-

- 2 heavy cruisers (protected by barrage balloons)
- 1 light cruiser
- 14 destroyers
- 5 large unidentified vessels
- 1 motor vessel
- 19 barges

From the time and nature of the sightings it would appear that separate units were seen. No sightings from SIPMSON Harbour were reported.

An interesting feature of the sightings is that of the warships, only three destroyers were escorting merchant vessels. The remainder of the

sightings suggest that following our heavy air attack on RABAU, the enemy is apprehensive of a land attack in that area, and that the warships are ready to intercept our surface craft in the event of an attempted landing on the coast of NEW BRITAIN.

SUBMARINE SIGHTINGS

During the same period, five enemy submarines were sighted in the area, at least four of which appear to be separate units.

4. AIR - OWN

FURTHER REPORT ON AIR OPERATIONS 24 Oct.

RABAU

About 1115 hrs, fifty-nine Mitchells escorted by ninety Lightnings bombed and strafed VUNAKANAU, RAPOPO and TOBERA airfields from minimum altitudes. At least forty-five grounded enemy aircraft were destroyed. An RDF station, two buildings, and a dump were demolished by direct hits and numerous buildings, searchlight and AA positions and airfield installations were damaged by strafing.

The Mitchells destroyed eight intercepting enemy fighters and the Lightnings thirty-four more. Two of our Mitchells were lost but the crew of one is safe. One Lightning is missing.

REIN Bay

At 0400 hrs, two Liberators bombed a destroyer and a large merchant vessel in REIN Bay. The bombs overshot and no damage was observed. Three destroyers, five large unidentified vessels and fifteen barges were sighted.

ALEXISHAFEN

This morning, seventeen Mitchells bombed and strafed with 75 mm cannon fire dispersal areas and supply dumps near the airfields at ALEXISHAFEN. The attack is reported as effective. A building, several native huts and a heavy AA position were destroyed and a number of fires were started.

SATELBERG Area

This afternoon, nine Bostons accurately bombed and strafed enemy defensive positions in support of our forward troops.

AIR OPERATIONS 25 Oct

MASAWENG R Area

At 1100 hrs, nine Bostons bombed and strafed enemy positions at 638 775, 635786, 613808 and a village at the mouth of the MASAWENG R. The attacks are reported accurate and most of the huts in the target areas were seen to be damaged.

RABAU

At noon, a heavy attack was carried out in the RABAU area but reports are not yet available.

5. AIR - ENEMY

In early morning 25 Oct, seven enemy aircraft dropped thirty-seven bombs on the north and south shore of LANGEMAK Bay causing some casualties and slight damage.

In the past week, there have been two reported instances of Jap pilots bailing out by parachute.

PART II

6. ENEMY POSITIONS

Tac/R reports on 20 Oct show enemy defensive positions prepared at 633696 and 593681. Tac/R also indicate that there are many foxholes on SATELBERG Height behind the mission building.

Tracks converge from these foxholes to the creek at 554677 and then disappear in dense jungle. From the number of tracks and their well worn and used appearance at this converging point it is possible that a HQ may be concealed near this creek bed. (Tac/R report from 4 AC Sqn 19 Oct 43).

In addition, interpretation of air photographs taken on 21 Oct show enemy defensive works on the edge of a large kunai patch from 629687 in a curve through 628687 and 626687 to 626689.

Signed at 2207 hrs

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Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Intelligence Report No 1

advised: the direct no base...

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 16
(Information from 2000L/23 Oct to 2000L/24 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

On 23 Oct 2/32 Bn relieved 2/28 Bn on portion of 24 Bde perimeter. During the day the enemy launched four attacks astride the KATIKA track on 2/32 Bn, but all were repulsed. The final assault was made at 2000 hrs. In other areas patrolling continues and our artillery engaged enemy positions.

Natives report that in consequence of the heavy bombings of the last few days, the enemy have ceased to live in villages, but continue to stay in their immediate vicinity.

5 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 23 Oct enemy were sighted by 29/46 Bn in the MONGI R area at 388 512, but escaped before our troops could make contact.

North of LAE the clearance of villages continues. Six more Japs were killed and two were captured in BAINDUANG area (649834) and at KISITARN (708772) during the day.

The enemy are reported (by natives) to have recruited and armed a number of native boys from the MARKHAM and WAIN districts, whilst natives in the HUBE district are stated to be sympathetic towards the Japanese. (5 Aust Div Intelligence Summary 240 to 19 Oct).

NOTE: The WAIN district is centred on BOANA, the HUBE district is centred on JOANGENG (358755).

7 AUST DIV (ref map 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 22 Oct 2/7 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrolling north to BOKU R dispersed and inflicted casualties on an enemy standing patrol at 462782.

On the same day 2/27 Bn drove a small enemy force from a position at 668620.

2. AIR - OWN

RABAU

A further report on the RABAU raid shows that forty-nine Liberators bombed RAPOPO airfield from heights between 17,000 and 25,000 feet. In all, 100 tons of bombs were dropped of which 75% are reported to have fallen in the target area. Four intercepting enemy fighters were destroyed and seven probably destroyed. These claims, with those of our fighters previously reported, bring reported enemy losses to thirteen destroyed and twelve probably destroyed. All Liberators returned.

BOGADJIM Road

Nine Mitchells attacked targets of opportunity along the BOGADJIM Road. Six to eight huts were destroyed in BOGADJIM village and others in villages along the MINDJIM R. Two direct hits with 75 mm shells were scored on the bridge over the GORI R. Tac/R later reported that the road was badly damaged.

3. AIR - ENEMY

On 23 Oct six enemy aircraft dropped sixty-six bombs in the FINSCHHAFEN area. Some bombs were apparently directed at our shipping. No damage or casualties are reported.

At 0640 hrs 24 Oct two enemy aircraft dropped fifteen parachutes in the PALANKO area.

COMMENT: Reports from other sources suggest that the enemy in the SATELBERG area are short of food and supplies. It is thought that these parachute drops may represent an attempt to relieve this shortage.

PART II

4. ENEMY OOB

A PW recently captured at FINSCHHAFEN stated :-

- (a) Elements at least of 54 Div were in NEW GUINEA but were NOT east of MADANG.
- (b) 51 Div remnants were being withdrawn to ERIMA and BOGADJIM.
- (c) He heard from a reliable source that 5 Div had been withdrawn to PALAU to reorganise and that they had left PALAU and may now be in NEW GUINEA.
- (d) He had no knowledge of 57 Div.

COMMENT :

- (a) From other sources it is known that 54 Div completed unloading at WEWAK in Sep 43.
- (b) It is thought that remnants of 51 Div number some 3,000 men and that they may be reorganising at BOGADJIM.
- (c) An entry on 8 Jan 43 in a diary captured at FINSCHHAFEN on 2 Oct states that two battalions of 52 Regt (57 Div) had landed at MADANG.

5. IDENTIFICATIONS

- (a) A map captured in the FINSCHHAFEN area had apparently been marked after the landing by our troops on SCARLET BEACH on 22 Sep. It shows that the following sub-units were then in the SATELBERG area :-

2 Coy 238 Regt
 3 Bn 26 Fd Arty Regt
 1 sec 36 Indep Div Tps (Comment : perhaps 36 Indep
 Engr Regt)
 Elements 102 Regt

6. DISPOSITIONS

- (a) In a captured note book an entry dated 26 Sep shows that IWATA Pl of 238 Regt was at SIALUM I.
- (b) A later entry states that 8 Coy 79 Regt with MG pl and W/T detachment, was ordered to move on 28 Sep from KALASA to JOANGENG (358755). They were to search the MONGI R area as a report had been received that our troops were advancing from the MONGI R towards JOANGENG.

PART III - TOPOGRAPHICAL

7. SUPPLY ROUTES : SIO TO SATELBERG-BONGA AREA

(All references to 1 inch to 1 mile series and sketch map attached as Appendix "A").

Information obtained from air photographs, Tac/R reports, captured documents (especially enemy maps) and interrogation of PW indicates that the following supply routes are available to the enemy :

- (a) By barge along the coast.

Note : There are connecting tracks from each suitable beach head along the coast to the main inland track between SIO and SATELBERG.

- (i) KELANA Harbour (295157) : Connecting track inland through KINALAKINA (228106) PAUKWANGA (269061) SIKIKIA (314039) WELNA (325027) to the main inland track at KALASA (356034).
 KELANA Harbour to KALASA : 2 days.
- (ii) SIALUM (394084) : Connecting track to main inland track at KALASA.
 SIALUM to KALASA : 3 hrs.
- (iii) NUZEN (429029) : Connecting track to the main inland track at TUNGE (405977).
 NUZEN to TUNGE : 2½ hrs. To WAREO : 4 days.
- (iv) TEWAI R mouth (481936) : Connecting track to main inland track at GERUP (407954).
 TEWAI to SATELBERG : 4 days.
- (v) WALINGAI (468910) : Connecting track to main inland track at YAMANZAKO (398847).
 WALINGAI to SATELBERG : 3 days.
- (vi) HUBIKA (587868) : Connecting track to main inland track at WAREO (556732).
 HUBIKA to SATELBERG : 2 days.
- (vii) LAKONA (613805) : Connecting track reported to run from LAKONA to WAREO. This track however has not been located on recent air photographs.
 LAKONA to SATELBERG : 1 day.

(iii) GUSIKO (618715) : Connecting track through BONGA to WAREO. The most recent photographs of this area show the track to be in heavy use, with dump areas near the coast inland from BONGA.

(b) By Coastal Track:

From SIO to GUSIKO or BONGA along the main coastal track. The only serious obstacles are the gorge and cliff face at ONEISENAU POINT.

69 miles; 5 days.

(c) By Inland Track.

KALASA to SATELBERG : 4 days.

Note : Captured documents indicate the existence of an inland route from SIO through MANAU (482417) LEMBANGANDO (480415) KUMUKIO (174123) KINALAKNA (228106) PAUKWANGA (269061) SIKIKIA, WELNA, WALEDOKUNO (332008) KIP (339997) BAKOA (370017) to connect with the main inland route at SORWENG (391003).

From here it follows the main inland track :

SORWENG, RUA (395987) TUNGE (405977) GERUP (407954) KUWUPKO (383941) ORARAKO (384886) SIWEA (381866) MASA (392796) ZAGAHEMI (417794) WAREO (566732) KAUNKO (581726) FIOR (562712) to SATELBERG.

SIO-KALASA : 2 days

KALASA-SATELBERG : 4 days.

There is a deviation between KUWUPKO and ORARAKO via ZAKOBEP (403938) and ZANKOA (406924).

COMMENT :

It is considered that the routes most used by the enemy at present are as follows :

(a) For Supplies.

By barge to GUSIKO, LAKONA or HUBIKA (in that order of priority), and by carrier line from beach head to WAREO (4 hrs).

Note : (i) The most recent photographs indicate, by the intensity of activity at BONGA, that the enemy may even beach barges direct over the coral shelf at this point.

(ii) Although sightings indicate probable beach heads at HUBIKA and LAKONA, photographs do not show tracks leading to WAREO direct from these points and it may be that the coastal route is used to GUSIKO and BONGA.

(b) For Troops.

By barge to SIALUM, up the connecting track to KALASA, thence by the main inland route to WAREO or SATELBERG as in sub-para (c), above.

Signed at 2217 hrs

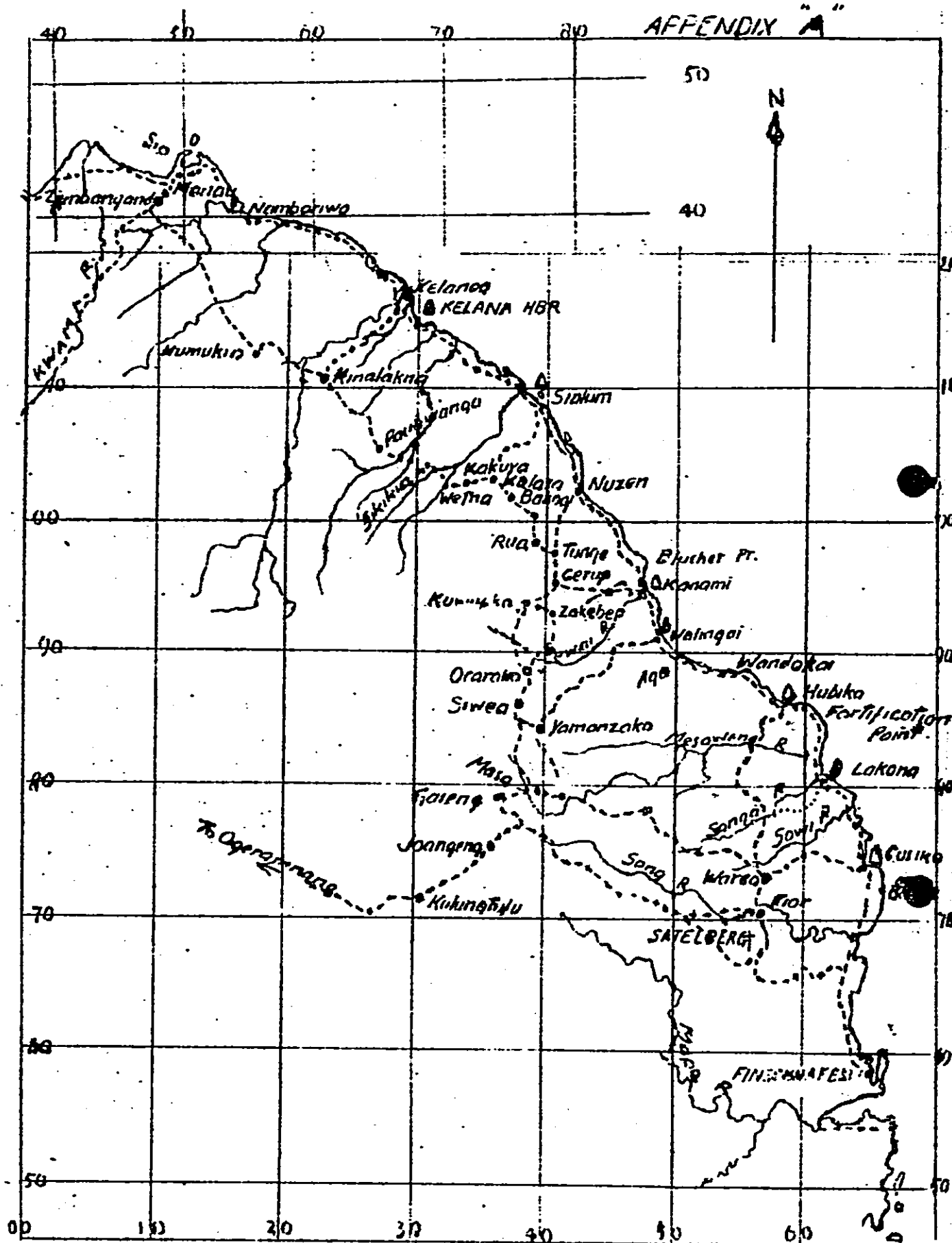
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TRACKS - SIO to SATELBERG

R.F. 1:380160

APPENDIX "A"



SCALE 6 MILES TO 1 INCH

Miles 0 4 8 12 16 Miles

LEGEND

Tracks
Doubtful Track
Barge landing points

146-191
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 15
(Information from 2000L/22 Oct to 2000L/23 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map SATELBERG 1:25,000)

On night 21/22 Oct the enemy evacuated their positions in the SIKI Creek area from inclusive KATIKA (640680) to the mouth of the creek. Only stragglers remained in the area and on 22 Oct, a fighting patrol from 2/28 Bn mopped up this sector. Fifty enemy dead were counted.

The enemy also withdrew from close contact west of SCARLET BEACH, but fighting patrols located enemy still in position astride the KATIKA track at about 630682. The 24 Bde perimeter was enlarged during 22 Oct and now runs from 639696 to SIKI Creek at 636679 - the junction with 2/48 Bn, which holds from this point to the curve in the SATELBERG road at 626669.

At 1945 hrs on the same day, the enemy made a heavy attack eastwards astride the KATIKA track, supported by a large volume of IMG fire. The attack was repulsed.

A fighting patrol from 2/15 Bn moved from KUMAWA NW along the track to the SATELBERG road at 562663, and engaged a party of twenty enemy at 567662, killing two. In view of this patrol's movement along the track NW from KUMAWA, it is not clear whether the enemy is still occupying positions just forward of KUMAWA.

Large enemy camps have been located in the following areas:- 558661, 565676, 575693, 569697 and on the BONGA - WAREO track.

A PIB patrol and a native report indicate that enemy supplies failed to arrive by the inland route from KALASA to WAREO (see Intelligence Report No 14, para 5) on one occasion at least.

5 AUST DIV

On 22 Oct north of LAE further villages were cleared of enemy stragglers.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 22 Oct patrol activity continued in this area. A patrol from 2/16 Bn made contact with an enemy patrol at 683619 and 2/6 Cav(Commando) Sqn found an enemy position at 554693.

Tac/R report on the same day shows increased enemy activity on the BOGADJIM - YAULA Road, including the use of heavy MT.

2. AIR - OWN

RABAU

At midday 23 Oct, six squadrons of Liberators escorted by sixty-four Lightnings bombed LAKUNAI and VUNAKANAU airfields. Reports are not yet available from the bombers, but preliminary reports from the fighters indicate that seventy or more enemy fighters intercepted, of which nine were destroyed and five probably destroyed. Our losses were one Lightning shot down and two damaged.

INTERCEPTIONS - FINSCHHAFEN Area

At 1045 hrs 23 Oct, fourteen Thunderbolts intercepted twelve to eighteen enemy fighters about 20 miles NE of FINSCHHAFEN. Three enemy fighters were destroyed and six probably destroyed without loss. Half an hour later, nine Kittyhawks attacked and destroyed an enemy light bomber ten miles east of FINSCHHAFEN.

3. AIR - ENEMY

The enemy ineffectively bombed the FINSCHHAFEN area during night 22/23 Oct.

PART II

4. ENEMY OOB - SATELBERG Area

A file of operation orders belonging to 80 Regt dated 15 Aug to 20 Sep 43, was recently captured at FINSCHHAFEN. Included is a document giving particulars of units with their strengths, which apparently moved by sea or marched along the coast from BOGADJIM to FINSCHHAFEN between 15 Aug and 15 Sep 43:-

20 Div Sigs	38 (incl 12 cipher clerks)	
26 Fd Arty Regt	350	
80 Regt HQ	120	388
MG Ccmd Sec	40	
1st Coy	80	
2nd Coy	85	
3rd Coy	103	428
2 Bn HQ	125	
6 Coy	167	
7 Coy	143	
8 Coy	159	
MG Coy	138	760
Gun pl	40	
3 Bn HQ	120	
9 Coy	150	
10 Coy	150	
11 Coy	146	
12 Coy	140	
MG Coy	132	878
Gun pl	40	
Detached men	368 for advance party by barge	
	2832	
1 Depot Bn (?)	100	
Inf Mortar Unit	35	
One Coy Ind Engr Unit	173	
1 Bn Fd Hospital	84	
	<u>3224</u>	

The move was to be in seven echelons; five to march by the coastal track in 26 days, one to go by barge in 7 days and the advance party, which was also to move by barge.

Signed at 2205 hrs

Handwritten:
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No 1.

File

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 14
(Information from 2000L/21 Oct to 2000L/22 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1/25,000 series)

Throughout 21 Oct aggressive patrolling by our troops took place in all sectors. Our patrols forward of 24 Bde perimeter located enemy dug in from 635694 to 630691. During the night our artillery engaged the enemy defences at 637690, 629677 and at the track junction 573661.

C and D Coys 2/3 Pnr Bn, which had maintained their positions in the areas 629689 and 607664 respectively during the enemy advance towards KATIKA and TAREKO, have now been withdrawn into the 24 Bde perimeter. They reported having killed a total of 85 Japanese from 17 to 21 Oct.

5 AUST DIV (ref BOANA sheet 1 inch to 1 mile)

Our patrols were again active in this area during 21 Oct.

A total of eighteen enemy were killed at BAINDUANG (649834), KUMBUM (576696), LUMBAIP (599669) and KWAMBELANG (644812) and five enemy were captured at BAINDUANG.

(Note : There are two villages called KWAMBELANG : the other is shown on 1 inch to 1 mile map at 518732).

2. AIR - OWN

BOGADJIM-YAULA Rd

On afternoon 21 Oct Kittyhawks divebombed and strafed enemy troops in DAUMOINA and nearby villages.

SATELBERG Area (ref map SATELBERG 1/25,000)

On morning 22 Oct ten Mitchells bombed supply and bivouac areas in MASANGKOO village (553701) and 1000 yards to the west. Bombs fell among tents and huts. This mission sighted a fuel dump at 554708 and new tracks were seen 500 yards north of MARARUO (535675).

Ten Mitchells bombed enemy barges and supply dumps near LAKONA village and at the mouth of the MASAWENG R. A probable ammunition dump was hit.

3. AIR - ENEMY

Early 22 Oct two enemy aircraft bombed the BUMI R area. Signal communications were dislocated, otherwise no damage was reported.

4. SEA - ENEMY

SHIPPING SIGHTINGS

An eight vessel convoy believed to consist of one heavy cruiser, one destroyer and six merchant vessels was sighted at 1115 hrs 22 Oct at 0.40 South 148.50 East : course 330 degrees : speed 10 knots.

At 1428 hrs on the same day an enemy hospital ship was sighted near GAROVE Island.

PART II

5. MOVEMENT 79 REGT TO SATELBERG

A PW belonging to 3 Bn 79 Regt captured on 21 Oct near the mouth of the SIKI CREEK made the following statement :-

79 Regt arrived in the SATELBERG area about two weeks ago. The troops moved by barge from HANSA BAY to KALASA (PW probably meant coastal area near SLALUM Island) and then marched by an inland route to SATELBERG. They were accompanied by a part of 26 Arty Regt, with six mountain guns type 94, together with engineer and medical units.

COMMENT :

The inland route used for this movement was probably from SLALUM Island via KALASA (354033), ORARAKO (385886) ZAGAHEMI (419792) and WAREO to SATELBERG. The total distance is approximately 40 miles and it is thought that the trip could be done in four days. (All references to 1 inch to 1 mile series).

PART III- TOPOGRAPHICAL

6. RAAF Tac/R Report of 15 Oct 43 contains the following information (all references to 1 inch to 1 mile series).
An enemy barge landing point is located at mouth of TEWAE River (486935). From here a well worn track along northern bank of TEWAE River leads into GERUP village (408953) where it joins the inland track from KILASA to SATELBERG via SORWENG (392002), RUA (394988), GERUP, KUWUPKO (383941), ORARAKO and YAMANZAKO (399846).
These tracks could, from their well worn appearance, form part of the Japanese L of C to SATELBERG area.

LATE AIR REPORT

7. WEWAK Area

At 1000 hrs 22 Oct twenty-six Mitchells escorted by twenty-one Thunderbolts attacked supply dumps and the airfield at DAGUA, the airfield at BUT and shipping near KAIRIRU and MUSCHU Islands. Fires were started at BUT and DAGUA, one sea truck and two luggers were destroyed and direct hits were scored on two other vessels. In addition a number of barges were bombed and strafed and three intercepting enemy fighters were shot down.

Signed at 2205 hrs

S. Handley
Lt-col
GS

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR REPORT NO 1.

1a1-fil
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 13
(Information from 2000L/20 Oct to 2000L/21 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

The enemy holding the area on the north bank of SIKI Creek from KATIKA to the mouth of the Creek inclusive were reported on 20 Oct to be occupying dug in positions with a strength estimated at 150. On the same day our artillery, mortars and machine guns harassed the enemy in these positions.

During night 20/21 Oct, there were sounds indicating that the enemy was digging in forward of the 24 Bde perimeter (see Intelligence Report No 11), south of the SONG R.

On 20 Oct, enemy astride the SATELBERG road at 595662 were engaged by our artillery and mortar fire from the east and west. D Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn unsuccessfully attempted to follow the artillery concentration and dislodge the enemy from this position.

On 20 Oct also, a patrol from 2/15 Bn drove the enemy from their post at 560055. Twenty-six enemy were killed and the remainder withdrew.

5 AUST DIV (ref map MONGI R 1 inch to 1 mile)

In the MONGI R area our troops reported BUGA area (3845) to be clear of enemy.

2. SEA - ENEMY

SHIPPING SIGHTING

At 1035 hrs 20 Oct, an enemy convoy of six ships was sighted in a position 2°30' south 149° east on a course of 90 degrees.

SUBMARINE ACTIVITY

During night 19/20 Oct our landing craft contacted an enemy submarine on the way into the beach at LANGEMAK Bay. They were able, however, to beach satisfactorily, although they were continually sniped whilst on the beach.

3. AIR - OWN

SATELBERG Area

Between 1120 and 1150 hrs 21 Oct, sixty-one Liberators bombed enemy supply and defensive areas at SATELBERG and WAREO. Both villages are reported to have been completely demolished. Two hours later, nineteen Mitchells bombed and strafed the same targets but reported that few targets could be found which had not already been hit. In these attacks 230 tons of bombs were dropped.

BOGADJIM - YAULA Road

On morning 21 Oct, four Mitchells bombed and strafed the road north from YAULA. One bridge near BAUAK was destroyed and direct hits caused a landslide across the road near YAULA.

4. AIR - ENEMY

On afternoon 20 Oct, four Zeros strafed three of our barges off BUMI R. One craft was damaged and some casualties were caused.

On morning 21 Oct, five enemy aircraft dropped thirteen bombs and strafed the GREAT Harbour and KAKAKOG areas. No damage or casualties were reported.

PART II

5. IDENTIFICATION

A PW captured at ARNDT Point on 15 Oct belonged to 1 Bn MG Coy of 238 Regt. He stated that the 1 Bn (about 700 men) had moved from WEWAK to HANSA Bay and then to ALEXISHAFEN, where they arrived in Aug 43. With the exception of 100 men the battalion went to LAE. The 100 men, of which the PW was one, reached FINSCHHAFEN in Sep and were sent to ARNDT Point on defence duty.

Signed at 2/00 hrs

Distribution as for Report No 1.

W. J. Ford Maj
1st Lt-col
GS

File IA.1

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 12

(Information from 2000L/19 Oct to 2000L/20 Oct 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1/25,000 series)

In the SCARLET BEACH area at 0530 hrs 19 Oct the enemy unsuccessfully attacked the 2/28 Bn outpost position at 642682. An attack by 50 Japanese an hour later on the battalion's positions at 643683 was also repulsed.

Enemy dead counted in the 24 Bde area for the operations on 17 and 18 Oct total 202, but many more casualties are believed to have been inflicted.

In late afternoon 19 Oct A and B Coys 2/28 Bn launched a counter-attack against the enemy posts in the KATIKA area, and at last light had secured the high ground astride the track west of KATIKA at 637682. The enemy however retained their hold on KATIKA itself, and the north bank of SIKI CK to the mouth.

During 19 Oct also several minor attacks were made by the enemy on C Coy 2/13 Bn on the south bank of SIKI CK at 642679, but all were repulsed. In the afternoon our troops from the south bank of the creek ambushed a Japanese party on the north bank. In all these engagements twenty-seven enemy were killed.

On the same day our artillery engaged the enemy astride the SATELBERG road at 597663.

Elsewhere the position is unchanged : no fighting is reported during night 19/20 Oct.

5 AUST DIV

North of LAE patrol activity continues especially in the middle SANAM R area. On 19 Oct seven villages were cleared of the enemy and seventeen Japanese were killed.

7 AUST DIV (ref MADANG strat map 4 miles to 1 inch)

A patrol from 2/2 Cav(Commando) Sqn reported the track from URAGINA (WO 3684) to JAPIA (WO 4593) to be clear of enemy on 19 Oct. However an enemy defensive position of unknown strength was found astride the track at WO 4693 (or BAGASIN sheet 1 inch to 1 mile 490943).

Elsewhere in the 7 Aust Div area there were slight patrol skirmishes only.

2. SEA - OWN (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile)

On night 18/19 Oct our light surface craft strafed a beached barge at KELANA Harbour (2915) and set fire to huts in the vicinity of WANDOKAI (595868).

3. AIR - OWN

On morning 20 Oct, four Mitchells bombed and strafed with 75 mm cannon, bridges and buildings on the BOGADJIM-YAULA Rd.

Early on 19 Oct four Thunderbolts making a fighter sweep over the WEWAK area sighted six enemy float planes taking off and shot down all of them.

4. AIR - ENEMY

FINSCHHAFEN

From 0100 to 0700 hrs 20 Oct enemy bombers were again over the area. About thirty enemy aircraft dropped 83 bombs near SCARLET BEACH and SALANKAUA Plantation. Damage and casualties are reported to be slight.

Early this morning also enemy aircraft also attacked our convoy in LANGEMAK BAY and were engaged by the escorting warships with AA fire. The warships were also attacked but did not suffer material damage. On its return trip the convoy was shadowed by enemy aircraft.

Signed at 2200 hrs

Distribution as for Report No 1.

Handwritten initials
Lt-col
GS

File I (a) SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 11

(Information from 200CL/18 Oct to 200CL/19 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1:25,000 series)

On 18 Oct, in the SCARLET BEACH area, heavy fighting continued throughout the afternoon. The enemy maintained pressure on 2/28 Bn positions at KATIKA and at the same time attempted to infiltrate round the north and south of the village. The enemy also attacked towards the centre of SCARLET BEACH from the west. 2/28 Bn, however, repulsed all direct assaults inflicting severe casualties on the enemy. The enemy's infiltration tactics were more successful and at 1500 hrs elements penetrated through to the coast at the mouth of SIKI Creek (644681).

During 18 Oct also, 2/43 Bn withdrew from its forward positions to a line about the 710 northing grid from the coast to 638710 and by last light, 24 Bde was holding a close perimeter from the cape at 644683 due west to 638683, thence due north to 2/43 Bn positions on the high ground north of the SONG R.

Early this morning, 19 Oct, C Coy 2/13 Bn was reported to be in contact with enemy about one platoon strength on SIKI Creek at 640678.

In the JIVEVANENG area, the enemy force, which was reported yesterday to have crossed the road about 5966 is still in position at 597663, astride the track east of 2/17 Bn. On afternoon 18 Oct, an enemy patrol attempted to move eastwards around the south side of JIVEVANENG from a position at 589661 but was engaged by 2/17 Bn.

Further south, a patrol from A Coy 2/13 Bn located an enemy ambush position about 580565 (ref FINSCHHAFEN sheet 1 inch to 1 mile).

During night 18/19 Oct, the forward troops of 2/13 Bn at 640678 and 2/17 Bn were in contact with small enemy parties.

5 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

North of LAE, one platoon 24 Bn attacked enemy at TEWAI (614785) killing 27 and capturing two. A patrol near MANAKASAT killed three more.

In the MONGI R area, two companies 29/46 Bn are at 445437. Natives report that some enemy troops are in the following villages:-

BUGA (398480), KAMING (351503) and SAMBEANG (335525).

7 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 18 Oct, in 21 Bde area, the enemy did not appear to be aggressive, and activity was confined to patrol actions. Total enemy known to be killed in 7 Div area since the attack on KAIAPIT on 19 Sep is now 479. This does not include the 45 killed by a patrol of 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn at KESAWAI on night 28/29 Sep.

2. AIR - OWN

FINSCHHAFEN Area

For nearly one hour this afternoon ten Vultee Vengeance dive-bombers and nine Bostons supported our ground troops by bombing and strafing enemy held villages. They also attacked the enemy supply lines west of SCARLET BEACH.

3. AIR - ENEMY

FINSCHHAFEN Area

From 0200 to 0600 hrs, fourteen enemy bombers were continuously over the area. Eighty-six bombs were dropped near BUMI R, the airstrip, KAKAKOG and GREAT Harbour. No damage is reported except to the L of C. Casualties were few.

Signed at 2303 hrs

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Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No 1.

File
SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 10

(Information from 2000L/17 Oct to 2000L/18 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 17 Oct the remnants of the enemy which landed at SCARLET BEACH were mopped up by B Coy 2/43 Bn, and by 1500 hrs the area north of SONG R was reported clear of enemy except for a few stragglers.

On 17 Oct the northern portion of the enemy force, which had reached a line about 3,000 yards west of SCARLET BEACH in the morning, continued their attack in the afternoon from NW towards KATIKA (6468). By means of infiltration tactics the enemy reached a position between 2/3 Pnr Bn on the high ground 6168, and the area 6057. At 1100 hrs 17 Oct the enemy attacked HQ 2/3 Pnr Bn at 633682. The attack was repulsed but the enemy launched a further attack at last light. Bn HQ then withdrew to KATIKA.

At 1040 hrs today close fighting was reported to be taking place near KATIKA (about 600 yards from the south end of SCARLET BEACH). A later report indicates that there was further fighting close to SCARLET BEACH itself, which was under fire from enemy mortars, at some places from a few hundred yards distance. The infantry engaged on this front is 2/28 Bn. In this area between 67 and 69 northing grids the main fighting during the morning was reported to be taking place. The fighting was particularly heavy astride the track just west of KATIKA at 640680. The enemy also attacked our light AA positions at 637692 from the SW and 635674 from the west. Our gunners fought the enemy with direct fire from BOFORS and LMGs, and 24 Fd Bty astride the coastal road area 639672 assisted with fire over open sights.

On the main SATELBERG road the enemy attacked this morning near the bend at 615663. The enemy were also reported to have crossed the road just to the east of JIVEVIERA in the area 5966.

7 AUST DIV (ref map 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 17 Oct active patrolling by our forces continued in 21 Bdc area. Some casualties were inflicted on the enemy about 6965.

2. AIR - OWN

At 1300 hrs 18 Oct fifty-one Mitchells unescorted attacked TOBERA and RAPOPO airfields and shipping off RALUANA POINT at RABAU. Preliminary reports indicate that at least twenty-five enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground, one 5500/7500 ton transport, one destroyer, one corvette and one PT boat were destroyed or left sinking and one ferry boat was damaged. Fuel dumps were hit, fuel trucks were destroyed and numerous fires were started. The control tower at RAPOPO was destroyed.

About fifty enemy fighters attempted to intercept our bombers. Twenty-two were destroyed and eight probably destroyed. Two Mitchells were lost and four damaged.

3. AIR - ENEMY

FINSCHHAFFEN

At 1105 hrs 17 Oct six enemy bombers escorted by twelve fighters dropped about 40 bombs in areas occupied by our troops. Kittyhawks intercepted and three enemy bombers were destroyed. No damage was reported.

PART II

4. JAPANESE INTENTIONS - FINSCHHAFFEN AREA

An enemy map captured south of the SONG R shows the plan for the attack being carried out by the enemy in the SATELBERG-BONGA-ARNDT PT area.

The attack was to be made by three forces as follows :-

Force (A) to attack south to the SONG R from BONGA

Force (B) to make a seaborne attack on the ARNDT PT area and to then move inland and link up with Force (A)

Force (C) consisting of the 79 and 80 Regts to attack east from the SATELBERG-WAREO area.

80 Regt on the right had as its first objective the high feature astride the road in 6166 after which it was to move SW to the TAREKO area in 6165.

79 Regt on the left had as its first objective the high ground at 6067. From here a part of the regiment was to advance to ARNDT PT whilst the other part turned northward to attack our guns in the KATIKA area where it would link up with forces (A) and (B).

5. IDENTIFICATIONS

The enemy troops who landed on SCARLET BEACH at 0415 hrs 17 Oct (see INT REPORT NO 9 para 1) belonged to 10 Coy 79 Regt with a detachment of 30 Engr Regt.

They had come from NAMBARIWA 541402 (ref SIO 1 inch to 1 mile) where they had apparently been located at 1700 hrs night 16/17 Oct.

6. JAPANESE DISPOSITIONS - GNEISENAU PT 572398 (ref SIO 1 inch to 1 mile).

Our surface craft reported that on night 17/18 Oct they were engaged by a shore battery from the vicinity of GNEISENAU PT.

Signed at 2245 hrs

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 9

(Information from 2000L/16 Oct 43 to 2000L/17 Oct 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1:25000 series)

At 0500 hrs 16 Oct, enemy estimated at one company attacked 2/17 Bn from the north. The enemy reached the track east of JIVEVANENG, but our troops counter-attacked and drove them off. A second attack by the enemy was repulsed. A third attack, again from the north, by enemy estimated at one and a half companies supported by infantry guns was also repulsed. Fighting continued till 1800 hrs and there were still enemy in the area last night.

During 16 Oct, our artillery shelled enemy positions at 577659, PALANKO (5668) and defensive works in the village at 573714.

At 0415 hrs 17 Oct three 36 foot enemy barges landed at the north end of SCARLET BEACH and were engaged by our Bofors, MMGs and infantry weapons. Thirty-seven enemy were killed and two of the barges disabled on the beach. The other barge withdrew north. About thirty enemy escaped and moved north into the area 6570 between the track and the coast. They were engaged by B Coy 2/43 Bn at 654706 and suffered casualties. The remainder are being mopped up in the jungle.

Later in the morning, enemy infantry were reported to be developing a land attack from the direction of WAREO (566731 ref map 1 inch to 1 mile) and PALANKO (569682) towards the east and SE, and were reported to have reached a line 615685 to 614676. These positions are about 3000 yards from SCARLET BEACH.

5 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

North of LAE our patrols continued their activity. A few enemy have been killed at HANIBMAIN (627742) and ORIN (626809).

South of the MARKHAM R a delayed report refers to a fresh Jap camp at 590347 where five more enemy were killed.

Total enemy casualties reported in the 5 Div area from 12 to 16 Oct were 59 killed, 2 wounded, 1 PW while our only casualty was one man wounded.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps one inch to 1 mile series)

On 16 Oct a patrol from 2/15 Bn inflicted casualties on a small enemy party at 703609.

2/31 Bn in the GURUMBU area (726616) was not in contact with the enemy during 16 Oct.

On the same day a patrol from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn attacked a position at 595716 occupied by about 30 Japs, and inflicted casualties on the enemy.

Our artillery shelled the enemy L of C at 685662 during night 16/17 Oct.

2. SEA

ATTACK ON TROOP CARRYING BARGES

Off SIO, in the early morning 15 Oct, our light surface craft sank four Type 'A' barges loaded with troops. The barges appeared to be heading SE.

3. AIR - OWN

During afternoon 17 Oct, nine Mitchells and nine Bostons in support of our ground troops bombed and strafed the enemy in the SATELBERG area. Bombing and strafing were reported to be accurate, and several buildings were destroyed.

4. AIR - ENEMY

FINSCHAFEN Area

During early morning 16 Oct, seven enemy bombers attacked the KAKAKOG area (6358). A total of 50 bombs were dropped at 626612, the south end of the FINSCHAFEN airstrip, 1000 yards west of the airstrip and at 632600. No damage was reported, and there were few casualties.

NADZAB Area

Early this morning, one enemy bomber dropped four bombs at NADZAB without causing damage, but a few hours later three enemy aircraft dropped twelve to fifteen bombs in the vicinity of the airstrip causing slight damage and four casualties.

94 BMB

ORO BAY - BUNA

At 1000 hrs 17 Oct, 30 to 40 enemy fighters were over the ORO BAY - BUNA area. Fifty-eight of our fighters intercepted and destroyed 24 enemy fighters and six probables. Three of our fighters were lost and two damaged.

PART II

5. ENEMY INTENTIONS

A 20 Div Operational Order captured at FINSCHHAFEN had been signed on 12 Oct by Lt-Gen KATAGIRI at SATELBERG.

It read as follows:-

"After dusk X Oct main strength 79 Inf Regt will attack the enemy in the ARNDT Point area from the north side. The Assault Boats Butai will penetrate through north coast of ARNDT Point on night X Day. Comd 2 Bn 26 Arty Regt will command his Unit and the Left Flank Defensive Unit and will destroy enemy in North Sector ARNDT Point observing following action. Occupy area south BONGA night 14 Oct. On X day attack enemy arty south bank SONG R. X Day will be decided on X-1 Day and signalled by fire AA gun 2200 hrs. After gunfire finished Rear Left Flank Defence Tai will proceed and advance to SONG and come under div cmd. DIST COMD Left Flank Defence Tai, 2 Bn 26 Arty, Comd 3 Bn 80, Comd 4 Bn 26."

This Order may be expressed as follows:

(NOTE: Phrases in brackets have been added as it is thought they are implied in the original).

20 DIV 00

by Lt-Gen KATAGIRI

SATELBERG HEIGHTS
12 Oct 43

(Orders to Comd Left Flank Defence Unit
2 Bn 26 Arty Regt)

INFORMATION

1. After dusk X Oct main strength 79 Regt is to attack enemy in the ARNDT Point area from the north.
2. During night of D Day the Assault Boats Force is to capture coast north of ARNDT Point.

INTENTION

3. 2 Bn 26 Arty Regt with under cmd Left Flank Defensive Unit will destroy enemy in "North Sector ARNDT Point." (and will support landing of Assault Boats Force by neutralising enemy arty on south bank of SONG R).

METHOD

4. On night 14 Oct occupy area south of BONGA.
5. On D Day attack (? by gun fire from BONGA) enemy gun positions on the south bank of SONG R.
6. When gunfire is finished, the Rear Left Flank Defence Unit will advance southwards to SONG R and come under Div Cmd.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

7. D Day will be decided on D-1 and will be signalled by AA fire at 2200 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION

Comd Left Flank Defence Unit
2 Bn 26 Arty Regt
Comd 3 Bn 80 Regt
Comd 4 Bn 26 Arty Regt

COMMENTS:

- (a) Following locations have been accepted:- ARNDT Point (648670) and BONGA (654733). (Ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).
- (b) "Left Flank" is considered from SATELBERG direction. It will therefore be the north flank.
- (c) This 00 appears to cover part only of a larger operation.
- (d) 79 Regt is NOT on the distribution list.
- (e) From the above it appears that 79 Regt may have moved from the YAULA - YOKOPI area and is intended to participate in operations against out forces at FINSCHHAFEN on an unknown date in Oct.

Signed at 2230 hrs

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

S. Handerson
Lt-col
GS

On night 15 Oct a single aircraft dropped five bombs near QUOJA R at 627644 (ref map 1 inch to 1 mile) without causing damage.

This morning six enemy medium bombers escorted by twenty fighters bombed SCARLET BEACH. Results are not yet reported.

4. JAPANESE EVACUEES FROM LAE

(a) A Superior private of 238 Regt captured at BAWAN (ref BOANA sheet 1 inch to 1 mile 570720) on 12 Oct stated that in the withdrawal from LAE to SIO hospital personnel led the retreat with 200 Naval troops acting as rearguard. The retreat was disorderly and the troops would have to be re-organized before they would again be effective for further operations. He added that three barges carrying wounded left LAE on 14 Sep.

(b) A native report received on 15 Oct states that there were 200 Japanese two hours march upstream from the mouth of the MONGI R. These may be the same party who were reported to be armed with rifles and to be moving from the area LS 2949 on 14 Oct (see para 1 above).

(c) As also stated in para 1, the following villages were reported to be occupied on 12 Oct by Japanese who had come from LAE :

EMBENGWANENG (LS 3367)

GUAUZAKO (LS 3466)

SAMANTI KI (LS 4169)

5. ACTIVITY ON ROOKE I

It is reliably reported that there are indications of enemy barge movement at night and signs of other activity at GIZARUM, HIGGINS PT and SUMPANAM (on west and SW coast of ROOKE I).

Signed at 2210 hrs.

Distribution as for Report No 1

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Lt-col
GS

File For I.

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 8

(Information from 2000L/15 Oct to 2000L/16 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map LAE Strat sheet)

It is reported that on 12 Oct the villages of EMBENGWANENG (LS 3367), GUAUZAKO (LS 3466) and SAMANTIKI (LS 4169) were occupied by enemy troops from LAE. Our artillery shelled the villages during 15 Oct. The enemy in these villages are reported to be living on native gardens.

On morning 14 Oct about 200 Japanese armed with rifles were reported at LS 2949, moving south down the MONGI R.

At last light 15 Oct an enemy field gun fired about eight shells from the north at the area 6373 (ref map MASAWENG R 1 inch to 1 mile). This is believed to be the first indication that the enemy force north of BONGA is equipped with artillery.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps Strat series)

On 15 Oct patrols from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn arrived at BANAM (WJ 1108) and USINI (WO 2687) without meeting the enemy.

Another patrol was still in contact with enemy holding defensive positions in the vicinity of EGOI (WJ 2103).

2/31 Bn, patrols of which were at about 7458 early 15 Oct, moved forward on the same day to 7462 without making contact with the enemy.

2. AIR - OWN

Operations on 15 Oct:

Eight Airacobras led in by Boomerangs bombed and strafed enemy troops in the YOKOPI area (6073).

It was reported in Intelligence Report No 7 that twenty-seven Mitchells and six Marauders attacked the SIO area on 15 Oct. Later reports now show that a further thirty-six Mitchells took part in this attack and destroyed the Mission at SIO and a number of huts. One Mitchell crashed on landing and another is missing.

Operations on 16 Oct :

This morning eight Bostons bombed and strafed No 2 Strip and dispersal and dump areas at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Bombs fell among two medium bombers and three or four fighters on the strip. In addition four barges in the area were strafed.

Thirty-six Mitchells escorted by twenty-nine Lightnings attacked WEWAK and BORAM airfields. Fourteen to sixteen aircraft are believed destroyed on the ground and large fires were started. The Mitchells and the escorting fighters shot down nineteen fighters out of an enemy force which attempted to intercept. One Mitchell was lost. Four Thunderbolts which carried out a fighter sweep at the same time destroyed one enemy fighter.

Twenty-four Mitchells escorted by fighters bombed and strafed ALEXISHAFEN. A number of buildings were destroyed and fires were started. Direct hits with 75 mm shells are claimed on AA positions. Thirteen enemy fighters were destroyed and six probably destroyed by the Mitchells and escorting fighters. One Mitchell was lost. Nine Mitchells which were unable to reach ALEXISHAFEN attacked coastal villages from REISS PT to NAMBARIWA destroying huts, and three other Mitchells attacked the SIO-PESCHEL area.

SEARCH FOR REPORTED ENEMY CONVOY LONG I AREA

Three Sqs of Mitchells searched unsuccessfully from approximately 1245 hrs to 1445 hrs today for enemy shipping reported north of LONG I, heading west. Thirty Lightnings which were escorting these aircraft shot down two enemy fighters near MADANG.

3. AIR - ENEMY

On evening 15 Oct six escorted enemy bombers dropped eighteen bombs west of SCARLET BEACH. No damage was reported. Each of the bombers then dropped one parachute over the SATELBERG area. Enemy fighters also strafed and damaged five barges at LS 4793 (ref LAE Strat map). Our fighters intercepted but results of the interception are not known.

File 1A1

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 7

(Information from 2000L/14 Oct to 2000L/15 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map 1:25000 series)

On 14 Oct a platoon patrol from 2/3 Pnr Bn drove the enemy from positions on the high ground at 614684 killing three and wounding others.

Our artillery harassed the enemy occupied villages WAREO (567732 ref map one inch to one mile), FIOR (562700), PALANKO (569683), MASANGKOO (553701) and the track bend 540680 during the day.

In the evening an enemy party, strength unknown, approached the platoon standing patrol of 2/43 Bn in the BONGA area. Our patrol opened fire at close range but with unknown results.

There was no change on the SATELBERG road or north of KUMAWA.

5 AUST DIV (ref BOANA sheet one inch to one mile)

On 14 Oct, a PIB patrol killed six Japs including two officers and captured a PW at KEMEN (610686). On the same day a patrol from 24 Bn contacted 15 Japs at BAMBOK (598692). Nine Japs were killed and two more wounded. The wounded then jumped into the SANAM R and were drowned.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps one inch to one mile series)

Early on 15 Oct, a patrol from 2/31 Bn attacked a small enemy force about 7458. The enemy dispersed after suffering some casualties.

During 14 Oct, enemy artillery intermittently shelled 2/16 Bn positions (6960).

On the same day a patrol from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn was in contact with an enemy patrol two miles west of EGOI (ref strat map WJ2103).

2. AIR - OWN (ref strat maps, NEW BRITAIN series)

On 14 Oct, twenty-four Mitchells attacked villages, plantations and barges along the NEW BRITAIN coast from SAG SAG (XM5384) to Cape GLOUCESTER. Fires were started, but the results of the attack on barges were not observed.

This morning, twenty-seven Mitchells and six Marauders attacked dumps and bivouac areas from SIO to PESCHEL Point (XL2343). A number of fires were started, but results were otherwise unobserved owing to the density of the jungle.

3. AIR - ENEMY (15 Oct)

FINSCHHAFEN Area

This morning a single enemy aircraft dropped five bombs in the sea at LANGEMAK Bay and near FINSCHHAFEN.

ORO BAY Area

Enemy bombers were over ORO Bay and Cape SUDEST for more than an hour last night. An unknown number of bombs were dropped. No reports of damage or casualties have been received.

About 0820 hrs today, a force of thirty enemy dive bombers escorted by more than twenty fighters attempted to attack shipping in the ORO Bay area. Seventy-seven of our fighters intercepted and after destroying most of the dive bombers and many of the fighters, pursued the remnants of the fighter force towards GASMATA. En route the enemy was reinforced by about forty more fighters. Our fighters were obliged to return from GASMATA owing to fuel shortage.

Total enemy losses were

26 dive bombers } destroyed
20 fighters }
11 aircraft probably destroyed.

Only one Lightning is missing. Two others crash-landed. The only damage to our shipping was caused by a near miss on a landing craft which was slightly damaged.

PART II

4. Documents recently captured in the FINSCHHAFEN area give the following information:-

(a) IDENTIFICATIONS

A marked map indicated that the whole of 3 Bn 80 Regt was at LOGAWENG on 13 Sep.

COMMENT:

Previously 10 and 12 coys had not been identified, although it had been assumed that they were in the area.

(b) DISPOSITIONS

From an entry in a diary, it appears that the following units, probably belonging to 1 Bn 141 Regt, arrived at Cape BUSCHING between 20 and 28 Aug 43:-

Bn HQ
2 Coy
1 MG unit
Bn gun pl

It was stated that the CO, 141 Regt had arrived at TULUVU on 30 Jul 43 and that the main body of 141 Regt was to assemble there by 15 Aug.

The following were to go to AISEGA (XM7355) to act as the defence unit:-

1 Coy 102 Regt
One sec Bn gun coy
One sec Regt gun coy

(c) PERSONALITIES

Lt-Gen IWASA - referred to as Force Commander (probably stationed at TULUVU).

COMMENT.

A Maj-Gen IWASA, Shun, was Comd of 3 Garrison Unit in Apr 41.

Maj TOBUSE - referred to as the BUSCHING Defence Unit Comd.

COMMENT.

Maj TOBUSE may be OC 1 Bn 141 Regt, parts of which are thought to be in the area. (See para 4(b) above).

Signed at 2155 hrs

Handwritten signature

Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 6
(Information from 2000L/13 Oct to 2000L/14 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref map 1/25,000 series)

On morning 13 Oct A Coy 2/15 Bn attacked strong enemy positions on the high ground west of KUMAWA at 565644. These positions give observation north to SATELBERG and south to GURUNKOR. After heavy fighting our troops dislodged the enemy from this dominating point. Twenty-five enemy dead, all marines, were counted near the track, but many more were believed to have been killed in the jungle.

A patrol from D Coy 2/13 Bn to NW of TIRIMORO found an enemy position at 591594, and killed two Japanese marines.

The native villages of FIOR (562700) MASANGKOO (553701) and an unnamed village at 596687, all believed to be occupied by the enemy, were registered by our artillery.

There was no change in the situation on the SATELBERG Road.

5 AUST DIV (ref BOANA Sheet one inch to one mile).

On 12 Oct one platoon of our troops attacked enemy occupying BAWAN (570718), killing fifteen and capturing one.

A patrol to MANAKASAT (581698) and then on to BAWAN found six enemy dead on the track. Later the patrol met three Japanese and killed two of them.

Our troops discovered that KUMBUM (578696) was free of enemy.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps one inch to one mile series).

On 13 Oct the enemy broke off contact with 2/27 Bn on the high ground about 6960 and the only activity in this area was harassing fire from enemy battalion guns. These were later silenced by an air attack.

On the steep slopes about 7058 to the NW of KUMBARUM 2/14 Bn killed thirty enemy on 12 Oct. A further ten jumped over a precipice to escape from our troops.

In all 92 enemy dead were counted on 12 Oct. This brings the total for all operations by this division since the attack on KAIAPIT on 19 Sep to 407 definitely accounted for.

2. AIR - OWN

This morning, twenty-seven Mitchells and ten Marauders accurately bombed the airfields and nearby targets at ALEXISHAFEN. Reports show that two enemy fighters were destroyed on the ground. In addition two possible oil dumps and AA positions were hit.

3. AIR - ENEMY

Four enemy planes, which were over the FINSCHHAFEN area continuously between 0130 and 0600 hrs today, may have been searching for our small craft off the coast. Four bombs were dropped near SCARLET BEACH and LANGEMAK BAY.

In early morning 14 Oct at least two enemy aircraft bombed ORO BAY and BUNA areas. A total of 32 bombs were dropped, the majority of which fell into the sea. Minor damage and only one casualty were reported.

PART II

4. ENEMY ORGANIZATION

Regimental QF (Tk A) Company

From a notebook captured at FINSCHHAFEN on 22 Sep 43 the organization and Manning State of the above unit in the case of one regiment (possibly 238 Regt) was in Jun as follows :

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>
HQ	1	16
No 1 Pl	1	18
No 2 Pl	1	18
No 3 Pl	1	18
Amn Pl	-	29
TOTAL	<u>4</u>	<u>99</u>

Comments :-

- (a) There would normally be six 37 mm QF guns in the Company.
- (b) The notebook from which this schedule is taken belonged to 2nd Lieut OSUMI, who was OC of No 1 Pl. The organization and strengths may therefore be accepted as reasonably accurate at the time.
- (c) It is, however, known that the organization, armament and strength of these companies are quite flexible. The normal WE accepted at the WASHINGTON Conference in Jul 43 shows two gun platoons each of three sections, besides the ammunition platoon, and a total strength of three officers and 127 ORs.

(ATIS BULLETIN No 441 - ITEM 7)

Signed at 23.20 hrs

M. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No 1.

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 5
(Information from 2000L/12 Oct to 2000L/13 Oct)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1:25,000 series)

On 12 Oct, about 30 enemy carrying bags approached BONGA (649744 from the north. They were engaged by our artillery, mortars and LMGs, and withdrew to the creek NE of the village. Enemy casualties were unknown but a patrol moving forward to investigate were fired upon by the enemy.

It has now been established that only a slight withdrawal was made by the enemy in the JIVEVANENG and KUMAWA areas on 11 Oct. The enemy withdrew from their most forward positions and appear to be still holding strongly astride the SATELBERG track about 580661 and north of KUMAWA from 569650 to 565648. In both areas the enemy are supported by artillery.

On 12 Oct, A Coy 2/13 Bn drove an enemy platoon from its position at 591558. Further north at TIRIMORO (593587) our artillery shelled the Japanese posts during the afternoon, and at 0800 hrs 13 Oct, D Coy 2/13 Bn occupied the village.

A late message states that the enemy force formerly based on FINSCH-HAFEN was directed to withdraw on 9 Oct to the coast (possibly to SIO). The message added that the troops in the SATELBERG area had run short of ammunition and provisions on 8 Oct. The reliability of this information is uncertain.

5 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 12 Oct, a patrol from PIB killed three Japs at LUMBAIP (599669). Many enemy dead were found in the village.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 12 Oct also, 2/27 Bn was in contact with enemy estimated at two companies on the slopes about 6960. Enemy casualties in this area are known to have been heavy and fifty dead had been counted at the time of the report.

2/33 Bn, which is now reported to be on the high ground in 7656, maintained contact throughout the day with the enemy further to the west about 7556. The Japanese force in this area is estimated at one company.

2. SEA

On the night 12/13 Oct our light surface craft sank one enemy ketch and damaged another at NW anchorage on TUAM Island (XM2437). They also strafed the beach at GIZARUM (XL9383) and damaged six to eight barges.

3. AIR - OWN

This morning eleven Liberators bombed Cape GLOUCESTER and scored hits on No 2 Strip and dump area. Nine others bombed the airfield at Cape HOSKINS (X09798), four bombed GASMATA and one bombed LINDENHAFEN Plantation (X09510).

First phase interpretation of photographs reveals that in the attack on shipping in RAPAUL Harbour on 12 Oct, the following ships were sunk or damaged beyond repair:-

1 10/12000 ton tanker; 2 destroyers; 5 large freighters (31,000 tons in all); 1 submarine; 1 special provision ship (refrigeration). In addition another destroyer was damaged.

Still in the Harbour were 11 warships, including 7 submarines, and 20 merchant vessels totalling 100000 tons.

4. AIR - ENEMY

On night 12/13 Oct enemy aircraft bombed the HELDSBACH area. No casualties or damage were reported.

In early morning 13 Oct, enemy bombers dropped 18 bombs at MOROBE. From this raid there was also no report of damage or casualties.

PART II

5. JAPANESE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND NATIVES.

The following memorandum of a verbal order given by the Commanding Officer of SACSEP No 1 SILE to the OC No 2 Detachment, was found at SALAMATA on 21 Sep 43:-

(a) Treatment of Prisoners.

"Every effort should be made to make use of such prisoners as can be used. In the present circumstances there is no need to make special efforts to increase the number of our prisoners. Should any doubt arise in connection with the treatment of prisoners, those who display hostile feelings are to be disposed of; those who do not, should be dealt with in accordance with what you would believe to be the Imperial wishes. In dealing with them, I personally am resolved to be guided by the Imperial poem:

"For my Country's sake, shatter the foe that wreaks evil,
But forget not to have compassion on him."

(b) Treatment of Natives.

"Those who display hostility to us should be disposed of rigorously and without mercy. Those who submit to us should be governed with benevolence. There are indications that the Australian Government has shown considerable skill and kindness in their dealings with natives. This is a point that calls for careful thought.

The natives have a strong sense of hero-worship; making white people work before their eyes, and other similar steps, might produce good results." (ATIS Spot Report No 155 dated 7 Oct 43)

Signed at 2220 hrs

S. Handerson

Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

Ja H. L. BMB

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 4
(Information from 2000L/11 Oct to 2000L/12 Oct 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV (ref maps 1:25,000 series)

On 10 Oct a patrol from 2/43 Bn attacked a party of six Japs at approximately 635671, killing four of the party.

Further reports on the attack by B Coy 2/17 Bn on morning 9 Oct on the enemy positions astride the SATELBERG track at 585662, state that these positions consisted of 108 deep foxholes all of which were occupied. Twenty-two enemy dead were counted in this area, but the nature of the fighting precluded a full count of enemy casualties.

On 11 Oct 2/17 Bn was concentrated on the SATELBERG track in the JIVEVANENG area with forward troops astride the road at 583662 as before. 2/15 Bn continued to engage the enemy positions north and NW of KUMAWA. Both battalions report that enemy activity in their areas is on a much reduced scale and that there are signs of the enemy evacuating forward positions. The extent of this withdrawal - if it is taking place - is not known.

Further south on 11 Oct, a patrol from 2/13 Bn located a Jap position at TIRIMORO (593587). The enemy were dug in under huts. Our artillery shelled these positions but results were not observed. Native reports state that the enemy food supply is short and that the enemy are plundering native gardens. The shortage of food is supported by an examination of enemy dead.

5 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 11 Oct, north of LAE, a patrol from 24 Bn discovered eighteen enemy dead and naval helmets at 608651.

South of the MARKHAM R, patrols from 15 Bn killed two Japs at approximately 566313. Reports from this area indicate that the Japs have dispersed and are moving in small parties.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 11 Oct, 2/14 Bn occupied the high feature 705575 inflicting many casualties on the enemy.

At 0115L/12 Oct, a Jap patrol attempted to reach our gun positions at 708566 but was repulsed by our troops.

Our artillery silenced an enemy mountain gun which had been shelling HQ 2/27 Bn in the area 6960 during morning 11 Oct.

During night 10/11 Oct, 2/33 Bn forced the enemy to retire from the 4100 feature at 7454 and later on 11 Oct were in contact with the enemy in the area 7657.

2. SEA

ENEMY BARGE TRAFFIC

An enemy barge hideout OP and camp has been located at SAG SAG, reported to be on SW coast of LONG I (ref STRAT map XF 0707). Considerable barge traffic is reported to move from SAG SAG to the mainland - perhaps to SAIDOR - between sunset and sunrise.

3. AIR - OWN

ATTACKS ON RABAU

Between 1030 and 1045 hrs 12 Oct, 109 Mitchells and twelve Beaufighters escorted by 90 Lightnings attacked the VUNAKAMAU RAPOPO and TOBERA airfields at RABAU, and the dispersal areas and dumps in the vicinity. The attack apparently gained complete surprise, enemy transport aircraft, bombers and fighters being caught unprepared on the ground or taking off. AA fire was erratic and ineffective. Preliminary reports show that at least 50 to 60 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground, while two enemy bombers and six fighters were destroyed by the Mitchells in the air, apart from those shot down by our fighters. In addition fuel and ammunition dumps were destroyed and many large fires started. It was stated that not more than twenty enemy fighters intercepted. One Mitchell was lost.

About 1215 hrs more than 80 Liberators bombed enemy shipping in SIMPSON Harbour. Details of this attack are incomplete but interrogation of the crews of some of the aircraft indicates that a direct hit was scored on a destroyer, which broke in two, one large oil tanker was left completely ablaze and at least twelve other ships were seen to be on fire. Approximately 60 enemy fighters intercepted, six of which are known to have been shot down. Two Liberators are reported to be missing.

4. AIR.- ENEMY:

In evening 10 Oct, four enemy aircraft bombed and strafed the FINSCHHAFEN area and attacked our landing craft off LANGEMAK BAY. No damage was inflicted and there was only one casualty.

On the following evening six enemy aircraft dropped a total of twenty-four bombs at SCARLET BEACH (6468, ref maps 1/25000 series) and the SONG R area without causing damage or casualties.

About midnight 11/12 Oct three, possible four, medium bombers dropped sixteen bombs near two of the airfields at DOBODURA. There were no casualties or damage.

PART III - TOPOGRAPHICAL

5. A Japanese sketch map undated, captured at LAE on 24 Sep, shows plans for the construction of a pack horse road between LAE and WANTOAT by the following route: YALU, NGASAWAMPUN, NGAFIR, WAIN, BOANA, HOGAMU, SETAN, BOKUMAN, KABURAN, KARAGA, MERA, KABISON, KARENGE, FUNUGAN, GOROMBO, SUKURUM, KAAMAN, DONAN, EWOK, BUM BUM, WANTOAT.

Location of villages between BOANA and SUKURUM, is not known, but the proposed track probably passed across the headwaters of the BRAP, IRUMU, and LERON Rivers through extremely difficult country.

The track was to have been 188 kms long, with a large number of bridges. Labour requirements were given as 220,000 man days.

Signed at 1230 hrs

S. Manderson
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Report No 1.

File IAI

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 3

(Information from 2000L/10 Oct to 2000L/11 Oct)

Ref Maps: 1 inch to 1 mile series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

There is no report of any change in the general position in the SATELBERG area. Elsewhere there was minor activity only. North of the SONG R a patrol found signs of enemy movement north of the track which runs west from BONGA at 644730. This may mean that the enemy is attempting to by-pass the position held by B Coy 2/43 Bn at 654737. To the south one coy of 2/13 Bn captured an enemy LMG post at 590566 and another coy moved to investigate reported enemy positions at QUEMBANG (560572).

5 AUST DIV (ref map WAGO 1 inch to 1 mile)

On morning 10 Oct, a patrol from 15 Bn in the area south of the MARKHAM R killed an enemy scout at 572309. It is estimated that 50 to 60 Japanese are moving in the general direction of MARKHAM Point.

7 AUST DIV

On 10 Oct a patrol from 2/16 Bn to 686644 reported extensive enemy positions on the high ground in this area. Patrols from 2/27 Bn at 694607, inflicted a number of casualties on the enemy.

Further east, 2/33 Bn moved closer to the enemy positions which were reported to be in the area 7554.

2. AIR - OWN

BARGE SWEEP

On 10 Oct Beaufighters strafed four barges on the SE side of LOLOBAU Island (XK7555), destroying three and damaging the fourth. Three barges in WIDE Bay were also set on fire.

INTERCEPTION

On morning 11 Oct four Thunderbolts on an offensive sweep over WEWAK area intercepted 32 enemy fighters and 12 bombers. Eight enemy aircraft were destroyed and three probably destroyed. Own losses were nil.

ATTACK ON SHIPPING

On the same morning one Beaufort on reconnaissance, bombed and strafed a 1500/2500 ton freighter at 05 26S 155 32E (approx 35 miles east of Cape ORFORD), and scored one direct hit amidships. The vessel had a 50 degrees list after the attack.

3. AIR - ENEMY

On night 10/11 Oct enemy aircraft made three raids on LAE. There were only two casualties and no damage was caused.

The same night, our patrol craft east of TAMI Island were attacked by dive bombers and medium bombers which bombed and strafed in relays of single planes for three hours. Other craft were bombed off FINSCHHAFEN and also off Cape CRETIN, where one aircraft was shot down and crashed into the sea.

PART II

4. ENEMY ORGANISATION AND STRENGTH

An organisation chart of 102 Regiment dated Nov 42 gives the following organisations and strengths:

(The document was captured at FINSCHHAFEN on 22 Sep 43)

REGIMENTAL HQ (undated)

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>ORs</u>
Operation and Liaison Section	2	25
Gas Supply Section	1	10
Intelligence Section	1	14
Section guarding the colours	1	12
Ordnance Section	1	8
Intendence Section	1	10
Medical Section	1	7
Veterinary Section	1	4
	<u>9</u>	<u>90</u>

No 1 Battalion HQ (dated 1 Dec 42)

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>ORs</u>
CO	1	-
Operation and Liaison Section	1	29
Intelligence Section	1	39
Intendence Section	1	10
Medical Section	3	8
	<u>7</u>	<u>86</u>

No 1 MG Company (dated 18 Nov 42)

HQ	1	19
No 1 platoon	1	22
No 2 platoon	1	22
No 3 platoon	1	22
No 4 platoon	1	22
	<u>5</u>	<u>107</u>

COMMENT: In addition it is believed that there is an ammunition platoon of 1 and 34 in each MG Coy.

This organisation conforms very closely to that of other Japanese MG Coys which have been met. The fire power of each Coy is normally 8 heavy machine guns (Type 92 7.7 mm HMG JUKI).

5. POSSIBLE ENEMY INTENTIONS

An operation order dated 16 Sep and captured at FINSCHHAFEN on 22 Sep shows that the part of 51 Div which had been evacuating IAE since 12 Sep was heading for BOANA. From this area it was intended that they should move to HIMARI - 15 miles west of SIO (probably KIARI).

Simultaneously, units of 51 Div at FINSCHHAFEN (some of them ex MONGI R) were to move to HIMARI by barge.

The order also stated that "the army will shortly reinforce 51 Div evacuation formation." (ATIS Spot Report 151)

Signed at 0040 hours 12 Oct

J. Handley
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 2
(Information from 2000L/9 Oct to 2000L/10 Oct)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

SATELBERG Area (Ref maps 1/25,000 series)

On morning 9 Oct B Coy 2/17 Bn moved north round the enemy positions astride the SATELBERG track at 585662 and by midday reached the high ground behind these positions at 583662. The enemy posts are reported to have been mopped up, except for isolated pockets. Later in the afternoon, however, the enemy launched three determined and sustained counter-attacks, supported by mortars. All these were repulsed with heavy enemy casualties. On afternoon 10 Oct the enemy made a further attack from the north and south on B Coy position, this time supported by a 70 mm gun, but were again driven off with heavy losses.

North of KUMAWA on 9 Oct activity was confined to patrol skirmishes. A further enemy position estimated to be held by about one company was reported to be on the high ground at 568653.

Next day, a patrol from the KUMAWA area reached JIVEVANENG without opposition.

Enemy dead in the SATELBERG area up to 2100 hrs 9 Oct are reported to be more than 400.

NORTH OF L&E (Ref BG&NA Sheet 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 9 Oct a PIB patrol operating north of LUMBAIP (599669) killed twelve enemy and found an additional nine dead. The Japanese were reported to be weak and poorly equipped.

7 AUST DIV

On 9 Oct, there were patrol actions between 2/27 Bn and the enemy at 718613 and further east a patrol from 2/33 Bn located well dug-in enemy positions in the area 7858. These, and other contacts made during the day may indicate that the enemy has established a series of positions protecting his main route through GURUMBU No 2 (750616) as follows:

SURINAM R - spur 785578 - astride track to KUMBARUM at 755576 -
URIA R area 735605 - FARIA R area 718618.

2. AIR - OWN

CAPE GLOUCESTER

On morning 10 Oct four Thunderbolts strafed and left burning three barges and three fuel dumps, each of 20 to 30 drums.

SATELBERG Area

On morning 10 Oct, eleven Vultee Vengeances and nine Bostons attacked targets in support of the ground troops. The bombing and strafing was reported accurate. There was a large explosion and a column of smoke was soon rising from the rear of a prominent building in SATELBERG itself.

3. AIR - ENEMY

Further details of the raids on the DOBODURA area on evening 9 Oct are as follows:-

In the first raid shortly before 2100 hrs, two aircraft dropped ten 150 Kg bombs near CAPE SUDEST. There were some casualties but no damage.

In the second raid about 2300 hrs it is reported that ten to twelve enemy aircraft made four runs over the DOBODURA area. Three sticks of bombs were dropped. Two hundred drums of petrol, a building and a number of tents were destroyed, and there were some European and native casualties.

PART II

4. ENEMY METHODS (Ref maps SATELBERG 1/25,000)

Reports from the FINSCHMEFEN area indicate that twice on 9 Oct enemy patrols operated behind our lines, presumably to guide enemy aircraft by light signals on to our gun positions.

At 635671, six Japanese were seen after light signals had been given and four of them were killed. At 598563, other light signals were given while aircraft were over the area and later Japanese footprints were discovered.

5. ENEMY TACTICS - NIGHT BOMBING ATTACKS

On two successive nights, enemy aircraft taking advantage of the early moonlight attacked gun positions, the beach-head and air strip area at FINSCHHAFFEN. On 5/6 Oct five bombers arrived singly at intervals and each plane flew over the area for fifteen minutes before dropping its load of six bombs. A sixth plane came in twenty-five minutes later to drop two bombs on each of two runs. On 6/7 Oct similar tactics were used but the average load was eight bombs. Some planes had their navigation lights on. The aircraft came in at 15,000 feet, descended to 7,000 to 10,000 feet, when circling the last time, and dropped their bombs in a shallow dive at 4,000 to 5,000 feet.

PART III : TOPOGRAPHY

6. KESAWAI Area

Air photographs taken on 8 Oct show that there is a bridge about 80 feet long and nine feet wide across the BOKU R at 453781 (ref map URIGINA 1 inch to 1 mile) and a footbridge at 437794. An officer, who has walked over the track shown on the map from ORGORUNA to KETOBI and KESAWAI, considers that this route is probably still good going. This is the main foot track from BOGADJIM to KESAWAI and it is known that enemy patrols have used it since March this year.

S. Mander Jones

Lt-col
GS

Signed at 0050 hrs 11 Oct

Distribution as for Report No 1.

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 1

(Information from 2000L/7 Oct to 2300L/9 Oct)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

NORTH OF SONG R (ref MASAWENG sheet 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 8 Oct, patrols along tracks to the vicinity of BONGA found no sign of the enemy.

SATELBERG Area (ref maps 1:25,000 series)

North of KUMAWA, 2/17 Bn (less two coys) was in contact with the enemy to the north and west throughout 7 Oct, but made no progress. A large enemy force tried unsuccessfully to cut off our standing patrol at 565645 from the west. Twelve enemy were killed during the day and others wounded.

Early on 8 Oct, the enemy attacked C Coy 2/17 Bn position at 568648. The attack was repulsed, but some enemy penetrated between C and D Coy positions and cut signal communication. Our troops remained in close contact with the enemy for the rest of the day. Heavy rain on 7 Oct and the steepness of the tracks have made it difficult to maintain supplies to our troops in this area.

2/15 Bn has reached KUMAWA from FINSCHHAFEN and by last light on 8 Oct were at the track junction at 565644.

On 7 Oct, portion of 2/17 Bn and 2/43 Bn, on the SATELBERG track, located a forward enemy position astride the track at 584662. Our patrols were active and our artillery put down harassing fire in the area. The situation was unchanged on 8 Oct.

7 AUST DIV (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 7 Oct, 2/16 Bn moved forward to BEBEI (659553) and late on 8 Oct 2/27 Bn moving north reached 689604. Enemy patrol activity was reported in the area 692604 on night 7/8 Oct.

A patrol of 2/33 Bn, which halted for night 8/9 Oct at 769538 reported that bridges over the SURINAM R at 771537 and 772528 had been destroyed.

A BENA Force patrol up the ETIABE R to WO 6365 (ref MADANG strat) found no enemy.

5 AUST DIV

BOANA Area (ref map BOANA 1 inch to 1 mile)

Following the questioning of natives at GUMBUK (509678), a reliable estimate has been made that there are 100 Japanese in villages in the BAWAN (570719), KUMBUM (577696) and BAMBOK (597692) area and further to the north.

SOUTH OF MARKHAM R (ref map WAGO 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 6 Oct, a party of Japanese was reported moving from the BUANG R area to MARKHAM Point. At last light a patrol of 15 Bn contacted enemy scouts at 582263 and killed one, and next morning several more were killed further north at 574296.

2. SEA (ref maps NEW BRITAIN strat series)

On night 8/9 Oct, two of our patrol craft were attacked by two enemy destroyers near LAGOON Point (XM5486) on the west coast of NEW BRITAIN. The destroyers fired approximately fifteen four gun salvos causing slight casualties. Our craft returned the fire.

It was reported that there were indications of six enemy vessels near SAG SAG (just south of LAGOON Point) and a powerful searchlight was observed at MARIEN Harbour (XM2255) on ROOKE Island.

3. AIR - OWN

FINSCHHAFEN Area

On morning 9 Oct, nine Bostons and twelve Vultee Vengeances attacked enemy defensive positions in the vicinity of SISI village. Weather over the target area was bad and rain, squalls and low clouds made observation difficult.

The Vultee Vengeances and three of the Bostons also attacked SATELBERG. Buildings were destroyed and pilots reported that possible ammunition dumps were blown up at 561675 and 560675 (ref SATELBERG 1:25,000).

4. AIR - ENEMY.

FINSCHHAFEN Area

On morning 7 Oct, five medium bombers escorted by fourteen fighters bombed the landing beach, causing slight damage and casualties.

In the afternoon eleven medium bombers and eighteen fighters attacked our positions in the FINSCHHAFEN area. There were no casualties or damage.

DOBODURA Area

In the evening 9 Oct, enemy aircraft made two raids on the DOBODURA area. The first was about 2100 hrs when ten bombs fell between SIMEMI and Cape SUDEST, No damage or casualties have been reported. The second raid was about 2300 hrs, when a fuel dump near DOBODURA village was hit and a number of petrol drums destroyed. No casualties have been reported.

PART II

5. IDENTIFICATIONS (ref 4 miles to 1 inch strat series)

A captured map dated 9 Jul 43 shows some 60 personnel of 79 Regt and 50 of 33 Indep Engr Regt scattered at various points along the coast between MADANG and WALD Bay (LN3507), in addition to 160 men of 80 Regt which was known to be on the RAI Coast at the time. These troops were apparently engaged in the handling of barge traffic. The map also shows that barge hideouts and W/T stations were located at the following points:-

MARAKUM (W08792)	Barge Hideout and W/T Station (Type 5 Set)
MINDIRI (WP1386)	Barge Hideout and W/T Station (Type 5 Set)
BILLAU (WP3483)	Barge Hideout
WAB (WP4779)	Barge Hideout
FUNGAI (WP5276)	Barge Hideout and W/T Station (Type 5 Set)
GALI (WP8060)	Barge Hideout and W/T Station (Type 3 Set)
KELEMEN R (XL0148)	Barge Hideout
KIARI (XL2242)	Barge Hideout and W/T Station (Type 5 Set)
SIO (XL4746)	Barge Hideout and W/T Station (Type 3 Set)
WALD Bay (LN3507)	Barge Hideout

6. POSSIBLE ENEMY DISPOSITIONS AND INTENTIONS

A PW from 2 Coy 1 Bn 78 Regt, who was captured and interrogated by 7 Aust Div, made the following statements:-

- (a) Remnants of 3 Bn 78 Regt from KALAPIT returned at night through PW's unit, which was then stationed at WAMPUM.
- (b) There had been no appearance of troops of 51 Div.
- (c) About 26 Sep he heard that his battalion would be withdrawn as far as the Japanese road-head at YOKOPI, where he believed the final stand would be made.
- (d) There is a large divisional supply dump at YOKOPI.
- (e) HQ 78 Regt, which was at ERIMA in Aug and at SURIMA on 1 Oct, has now returned towards the coast.
- (f) The journey from MADANG to YOKOPI is four to five days on foot or two days by truck.

7. JAPANESE AIRCRAFT

Attached as Appendix 'A' is a list of Japanese aircraft, with the code name assigned to each type.

Signed at 0050 hrs 10 Oct

S. Henderson
Lt-col
GS

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 1 APPENDIX 'A'

The following list of enemy aircraft with the code name assigned to each type is published for reference:

JAPANESE AIRCRAFT

<u>Code Name</u>	<u>Type *</u>	<u>Used by</u>
<u>FIGHTERS</u>		
1. NATE	Type 97 SSF	Army & Navy
2. ZEKE	Type 0 SSF	Army & Navy
3. RUFÉ	Type 0 SSF F/P	Army & Navy
4. OSCAR	Type I SSF	Army & Navy
5. HAP	Type SSF	Army & Navy
6. FRED	Type FW 190 SSF	
7. MIKE	Type ME 109F SSF	
8. DAVE	Type 95 Recce Float Plane	Navy
● PETE	Type 0 Observation Float Plane	Navy
<u>DIVE BOMBERS</u>		
10. KATE	Type 97 Torpedo Bomber	Navy
11. VAL	Type 99 Dive Bomber	Navy
12. JUNE	Type 99 Dive Bomber Float Plane	Navy
<u>BOMBERS</u>		
13. DINAH	Type L/B	Navy
14. NELL	Type 96 M/B	Army & Navy
15. SALLY	Type 97 M/B	Army
16. LILY	Type 99 M/B	Army
17. BETTY	Type 1 M/B	Navy
18. DORIS	Type M/B	
19. MAVIS	Type 97 4E F/B	Navy
<u>TRANSPORTS</u>		
20. TESS	Type D2 Transport	
21. THELMA	Lockheed 14 Transport	Army & Navy
22. TOPSY	Type MC20 Transport	Army

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NLO Navy, BUNA	1
CO 'B' Sorps Sigs	1
GOC	1
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It is requested that after perusal this distribution list should be destroyed.

1A 1/6
SECRET

1 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 32

(Information from 2000L/6 Oct to 2000L/7 Oct)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

NORTH OF SONG R (Ref MASAWENG Sheet 1 inch to 1 mile)

At last light on 6 Oct, a company of 2/43 Bn which had moved north along the BONGA track occupied the track junction at 645725. No contact was made with the enemy. Shortly before midday, 7 Oct, this company had reached 646733, and a patrol forward to 653737 took one prisoner.

SATELBERG Area (Ref 1/25,000 series)

On 6 Oct, 2/17 Bn (less two coys) moved north from KUMAWA, and forward troops were fired on by the enemy at 566650. The enemy post was shelled by our artillery, and a platoon was left to contain it. The main body moved on NE along the track towards SISI (572658) and encountered a strongly dug in enemy position on a track at 564647 (not marked on map) east to 567650 (astride the SISI track). The enemy resisted strongly with MG fire and fighting patrols, and at last light our forward troops were on high ground overlooking the track junctions at 568648 and KUMAWA.

2/43 Bn (less one coy) was in contact with the enemy on the SATELBERG track at 580661.

7 AUST DIV (Ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 6 Oct, a small party of Japanese in a village at 685594 was fired on by artillery. A patrol sent to investigate reported small enemy pockets in the KUMBARUM area.

The same day, a patrol of 2/2 Aust Cav Commando Sqn which reached HQ 21 Bde (685521) reported KESAWAI clear of the enemy.

2. AIR - ENEMY

On morning 7 Oct, enemy aircraft bombed the landing beach in the FINSCHHAFEN area inflicting light casualties.

PART II

3. IDENTIFICATIONS

3 coy, 21 Trench Mortar Bn, has been identified in the SISI area. This is thought to be identical with 21 Ind Light Mortar Unit, an identification of which at SATELBERG was secured on 27 Sep. (ref 1 Aust Corps Intelligence Report No 29, para 4(a)).

Comment: An operation order dated 13 May 43 stated that 21 Ind Mortar Bn was to move from RABAU to the Cape GLOUCESTER area.

4. ENEMY INTENTIONS: NORTH OF DUMPU

An operation order issued by 78 Regt and dated 0700 hrs 5 Oct, was captured on 7 Oct at KUMBARUM. This order stated that

"YAMASHITA platoon will block FUREJIYAPO River valley and one battalion will block URIA River valley".

Comment: FUREJIYAPO river is probably FARIA R.

PART III : TOPOGRAPHY

5. TRACKS NORTH OF DUMPU

(a) A captured sketch map indicates a track running north from KUMBARUM along the east bank of the URIA R to GURUMBU No 3 (742610) thence to GURUMBU No 2 (750617) which is identical with Key Point No 3 mentioned in 20 Div OO No 1 dated 8 Sep.

(b) SURIMA (SURINAM) is now thought to be situated at 778530.

Signed at 0015 hrs 8 Oct.

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

J. Inman
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 31

(Information from 2000L/4 Oct to 2000L/6 Oct)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

NORTH OF SONG R (Ref NASAWENG Sheet 1 inch to 1 mile)

On 5 Oct, two companies of 2/17 Bn crossed the SONG R and moved north to 639708 and shortly after midday attacked the well prepared enemy position on the track about 642703, using mortars and grenades. A further outflanking movement by one company forced the enemy to withdraw.

SATELBERG AREA (Ref maps 1/25,000 series)

On 4 Oct on the SATELBERG track, the company of 2/43 Bn, which had been isolated near JIVEVANENG (589660), succeeded in rejoining the main body. This company reported continuous attacks during the time it was cut off by the enemy, who were on the track behind them at 591661. All these were repulsed and at least fifty enemy were killed. Our casualties were light. Late on 5 Oct, the enemy evacuated his position on the track, and 2/43 Bn occupied JIVEVANENG and recovered a quantity of supplies.

On 5 Oct also, 2/17 Bn (less two companies) moved inland from the coastal track at 630631 to KUMAWA (5664). Forward troops encountered an enemy patrol of sixteen in the village and killed six.

Further south patrols of 2/13 and 2/15 Bns have seen no enemy along the track through the KREUTBERG RANGE.

NORTH OF LAE (Ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 5 Oct, 2/24 Bn was in the KUNDA Bridge-MUSOM area with strong fighting patrols to GAWAN and KEMEN and north into the mountains. Small parties of enemy stragglers have been reported in the area.

7 AUST DIV (Ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 4 Oct, 2/14 Bn overcame slight enemy opposition at 788451 and occupied WAMPUM and the surrounding area. Enemy strength in the village was estimated at sixty, with a further party to the NW. Next day, 21 Bde moved forward and on night 5/6 Oct was disposed around DUMPU just west of the URJA R with one battalion at KUMBARUM (709570) on the track to the north. 2/2 Indep Coy patrolled the area MATAHAUSA-WAIMERIBA-DUMPU-KESAWAI.

A PW captured at the WARRIS R stated that the enemy line of withdrawal was from WAMPUM north to GURUMBU (820618).

2. AIR - CWN

The following air attacks were carried out on morning 5 Oct 43:-

BOGADJIM AREA

Four Fortresses bombed bridges on the BOGADJIM road without result. At approximately the same time eight Liberators and one Fortress bombed BOGADJIM Village, ERIMA Plantation and a bridge at the mouth of the GORI R. Huts were hit and fires started at BOGADJIM.

GASMATA

Twenty-two Kittyhawks bombed GASMATA, starting fires.

BARGE SEARCHES

Eleven Mitchells attacked nine barges along the RAI coast but results were not observed. Two Mitchells are missing from this mission. One was hit by AA fire and crashed in flames and the other was last seen disappearing into cloud and has not returned to base.

Operations on 6 Oct were as follows :-

BARGE SWEEP

In the morning three Mitchells bombed and strafed small craft off CAPE RA'OUT, on the north coast of NEW BRITAIN (Strat map XN 2396). One launch was damaged and tracers were seen entering two patrol vessels. A number of Japanese swimming near TAMO R (XN 0788) and one barge in ROTTOCK BAY (XN 0092) were strafed. The barge was set on fire.

UNEA I (XH 4560)

In the afternoon, six Mitchells bombed and strafed ground installations on UNEA I, destroying one building. GAROVE I and three barges in BORGEN BAY were strafed with unobserved results.

LOLOBAU I

Three Beaufighters attacked five barges and one launch at LOLOBAU I (XK 7257). One barge was sunk and two were left burning.

3. AIR - ENEMY

On 5 Oct, enemy aircraft carried out the following bombing attacks in the FINSCHHAFEN area :-

- (a) At 0540 hrs, one aircraft dropped eight bombs into the sea.
- (b) At 0600 hrs, two medium bombers bombed the area, causing no damage. Four of the bombs failed to explode.
- (c) At 0800 hrs, four medium bombers dropped bombs from 10,000 ft, causing no damage.

PART II

4. ENEMY STRENGTHS - KAIAPIT

Information about the 78 Regt advance guard, which was defeated at KAIAPIT on 19 and 20 Sep, is furnished by a PW Preliminary Interrogation Report dated 4 Oct from 7 Aust Div. The PW belonged to 10 Coy 3 Bn 78 Regt, which assisted in transporting supplies forward to vicinity of RAGITSARIA. The PW stated that 100 remnants of the advance guard got back under Capt YAGUWA (OC 9 Coy), the remainder of the force being counted as lost or missing.

5. ENEMY TACTICS

The following extracts from a Japanese note book dated 12 Aug 43, which was captured at WHITTAKER'S on 13 Sep 43, are of considerable interest :-

Front Line Butai Patrols -

1. Selected Platoon patrols will penetrate deep into the enemy lines and make surprise attacks and cut enemy communication lines. They should attack the Transport Tai and capture material.
2. More than 2km from our Butai area, there are ideal points where we can send up smoke and endeavour to dissipate the enemy artillery fire.
3. Endeavour to build a false position quite some distance from the real position and decoy the artillery fire to this.

Other than Front Line Butai Patrols

1. When sending out a patrol they will endeavour to decoy the enemy artillery fire by sending up smoke in the places mentioned in paragraph 2.
2. But they must carry this out accurately according to officers' instructions and must absolutely take the necessary precautions not to decoy enemy fire upon the real positions.

A report on the efficiency of dummy positions and dummy guns, dated 8 Aug 43, indicates that in the SOLOMONS these plans have met with some degree of success.

From experiments made in the fighting at MUNDA area, even against the enemy's tactics of relying upon the omnipotence of fire power, suitably prepared dummy positions and dummy guns were extremely effective in drawing enemy artillery and bombing attacks.

(AMF Weekly Intelligence Review No 61)

Signed at 0130 hrs 7 Oct

S. Man...
Lt-col
GS

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1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 30

(Information to 2000L/4 Oct)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series
1 inch to 1 mile series

file
(#)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

Early on 3 Oct, large enemy patrols attacked our outpost position north of the SONG R. The attack was driven off and casualties inflicted on the enemy. In the afternoon however a strong enemy force made further attacks on the outpost. These were repulsed but at last light forward enemy troops, estimated at a company in strength, were still in position near the coastal track and about 800 yards north of the SONG R.

Late the same day, on the SATELBERG road, one company of 2/43 was still at JIVEVANENG (589660), but there was an enemy force astride the track behind them at 591661.

7 AUST DIV

On night 2/3 Oct, the enemy was driven from a position at 792385, and during 3 Oct our troops attacked a post at 825429, from which the enemy withdrew. In both attacks casualties were inflicted on the Japanese. Contact was also made at WAMPUM.

On the same day KAIGULAN was occupied without opposition.

On 2 Oct, 2/2 Indep Coy patrolled the DUMPU-KESAWAI track but found no enemy.

2. AIR - OWN

On afternoon 4 Oct, six Mitchells bombed and strafed launches and buildings at GAROVE I. Two motor launches were destroyed and fires started in the building area.

3. AIR - ENEMY

On morning 3 Oct four medium bombers bombed and strafed HELDSBACH Plantation and the landing beach. There was no damage and only one casualty.

Handwritten signature

Lt-col
GS

Signed at 2305 hrs

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~~SECRET~~

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO 20
(Information to 2000K/3 Oct)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series
1 inch to 1 mile series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

FINSCHHAFEN AREA

On 2 Oct, in the SATELBERG road area there was some sharp fighting by 2/43 Bn on the track itself about 580662 and in addition, part of the battalion attacked an enemy force located on the spur at 586656.

At noon on the same day, one of our patrols attacked an enemy force about forty strong 2000 yards north of the SONG R on the BONGA track, and inflicted some casualties.

During mopping up in the FINSCHHAFEN area on 2 Oct, a number of enemy additional to those reported yesterday were killed and some prisoners were taken. One of these stated that the remnants of his unit had left FINSCHHAFEN at dawn via the inland track - presumably through TIRIMORO, GURUNKOR, KUMAWA and SATELBERG.

On 2 Oct, also south of the MAPE R, a patrol from 22 Bn attacked a small enemy party near GODOWA (619553), killing two, and another patrol to LOGAWENG (6352), reported the village clear of the enemy. Defences on the high ground had been abandoned and a field gun and several HMGs were captured.

TAMI ISLANDS

Early on 3 Oct, our troops landed on KALAL Island without opposition. Natives reported that approximately 200 enemy with extensive wireless equipment left the islands some three weeks ago.

COMMENT: These 200 enemy may be the same as the infantry company and MG platoon, perhaps from 238 Regt, reported to be in this group some time ago. (See 1 Aust Corps Daily Intelligence Summary No 24.)

7 AUST DIV

Two companies of 2/16 Bn crossed the GUSAP R on 2 Oct, with patrols forward to KAIGULAN (778401 DUMPU Sheet) and beyond. The rest of 21 Bde moved to the area just south of the river.

A patrol of 2/7 Indep Coy also reached KAIGULAN.

2. AIR - OWN

BARGE SWEEP

On morning 3 Oct, nine Mitchells on a barge sweep from CAPE BUSCHING to CAPE GLOUCESTER and around ROOKE Island coast destroyed one of two camouflaged and possibly loaded barges north of LAGUNEN Point (same as LAGOON Point 10 miles SSW of CAPE GLOUCESTER).

PART II

3. ENEMY OOB - LAND

The following is an extract from a message dated 14 Sep 43 sent by Staff Officer INOUE to 1st Lieut SAWAMURA (OC 9 Coy 80 Regt):-
"One section of 20 DIV (No 1 Boat Unit) is expected to arrive SIO-KALASA tomorrow. 20 DIV Staff Comd will inform them of the importance of the position between ARNDT POINT and FORTIFICATION POINT, and also will despatch a strong force.
238 Inf QF Gun Unit will co-operate with your unit."

4. IDENTIFICATIONS (ref our Daily Intelligence Summary No 25, para 2)

(a) The force which on 26 Sep was to have attacked our troops near HELDSBACH from the direction of SATELBERG, is now known to have included the following additional units:-

5 Coy 238 Regt
21 Ind Light Mortar Unit

The units already reported to have composed this force were:-

3 Bn 80 Regt less 10 and 12 Coys
9 Coy 238 Regt

- (b) The PW, whose statement is quoted in para 1 above, also said that about ten days ago he with fifteen others arrived at FINSCHHAFEN by submarine from RABUL to join 85 Guard Unit, which was then being formed at FINSCHHAFEN from personnel of SASEBO 5 SNLP. He estimated the strength of 85 Guard Unit before joining battle at 200 men and added that 10 to 15 of these arrived at a time.
- (c) There are indications that HQ 20 DIV may possibly now be established in the vicinity of SIO.

5. PERSONALITIES (ref our Daily Intelligence Summary No 25 para 4)

Lt-col TAKAGI, Shigeru is now believed to be CO of 3 Bn 80 Regt, NOT 2 Bn, as previously reported.

Signed at 0040 hrs 4 Oct

S. Maudslayi

Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

File 9a1

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1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 28

(Information to 2000K/2 Oct)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series
1 inch to 1 mile series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

FINSCHHAFEN Area

Early this morning 2/17 Bn crossed the BUMI R near its mouth and advanced south through SALANKAUA Plantation on the axis of the main track (637601). No enemy resistance was met and there were signs of a hurried withdrawal. The advance was continued and at 1130 hrs FINSCHHAFEN village (644586) was occupied. ✓

One of the principal events leading to the capture of FINSCHHAFEN was the successful attack by 2/13 Bn on 1 Oct. Early in the day the battalion (less one company) attacked the strongposts around KAKAKOG from the NW. The enemy resisted stubbornly all day but were finally driven from many positions. One hundred Japanese, all naval troops, were killed and a large number of HMGs (presumably 7.7 mm JUKIS) and IMGs and quantities of ammunition were captured. The battalion then occupied a position on a spur about 100 yards north of KAKAKOG, and it was found that the enemy had evacuated a large part of SALANKAUA Plantation. Mopping up proceeded on night 1/2 Oct.

On the same day one company of 2/13 Bn holding the track at 623592 repulsed an enemy attack and inflicted a number of casualties. In the afternoon our artillery engaged two barges in GREAT HARBOUR and set one on fire.

On 1 Oct also, 22 Bn secured DEEGER HARBOUR and patrols moved on to TIMBULUM Plantation (6254) without meeting any enemy.

The whole of the FINSCHHAFEN area is now reported clear of the enemy and much valuable equipment was found abandoned. At last light, 2 Oct, 2/13 Bn was occupying the KAKAKOG-FINSCHHAFEN area, 2/17 Bn the KOLEK area and 2/15 Bn the SIMBANG area. Contact has been made with a forward patrol of 22 Bn south of LANGEMAK BAY.

On the SATELBERG track around 580632 2/43 Bn made some progress on 2 Oct, but the dispositions were substantially unchanged.

NORTH OF LAE

During 1 Oct a patrol of PIB continued to harass enemy parties withdrawing along the track north of KEMEN (609586) and killed eighteen.

7 AUST DIV

On 1 Oct, 21 Bde moved forward to the area around an air strip at 5411 with patrols forward to the GUSAP R.

2. SEA - ENEMY

At 0915 hrs 2 Oct, a reconnaissance aircraft reported sighting 14 barges 25 miles NE of FINSCHHAFEN on a course of 245 degrees. A subsequent search by three squadrons of medium bombers did not locate the barges, but visibility was very poor.

3. AIR - OWN

The following operations were carried out by our aircraft on morning 2 Oct :-

CAPE HOSKINS

Nine Marauders bombed the strip, dispersal areas and camps at CAPE HOSKINS. Large explosions were observed at the western end of the runway and other targets were accurately bombed.

INTERCEPTION

Fourteen Lightnings, escorting Mitchells on a barge sweep, destroyed an enemy light bomber near REIN BAY

4. AIR - ENEMY

On afternoon 1 Oct, two enemy bombers bombed and strafed our gun positions in the FINSCHHAFEN area. No further details are available.

PART II

5. ENEMY BOOBY TRAPS

The following anti-personnel devices were used by the enemy in the LAE area :

- (a) Light mortar bombs, with safety pin removed, were placed in the soil covering buried equipment. It was hoped apparently that, in the search for equipment the area would be dug up and the bombs would be struck by shovels and exploded.
- (b) Detonators were found fastened to signal wires. These were evidently intended to explode either when trodden on, or as a result of the wire being run through the hand.

(9 Aust Div Intelligence Summary No 9).

6. TACTICS - AIR

It is reported from FINSCHHAFEN that Japanese bombers consistently attack just after dawn and just before dusk. They normally fly a little above the effective range of our light AA guns. Seventy-five per cent of bombs dropped are the small anti-personnel type.

(Report from AADC, FINSCHHAFEN, on 1 Oct)

7. GENERAL

A PW from SASEBO No 5 SNLP Searchlight Coy, who was captured in the KUNDA Bridge area on 23 Sep, stated that he was to have been evacuated to RABUL by submarine. Unfortunately he joined the wrong column and found himself in the hills NE of LAE. Owing to his weakness from malaria he was unable to keep up with the column and later was forced to deviate from the track by a party of Chinese who appeared to be unfriendly. Subsequently he contacted a further party of the LAE garrison but they drove him away because he had no rations, and forced him to proceed on his own. He was following one of our signal wires when he met one of our patrols. On being challenged he threw up his hands and surrendered immediately.

(9 Aust Div Intelligence Summary No 9)

Signed at 0030 hrs 3 Sep

Handwritten signature
Lt-col
GS

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1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 27

(Information to 2000K/1 Oct)

Ref Maps : 1 inch to 1 mile series
1:25,000 series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

FINSCHHAFEN Area

On 30 Sep, 2/43 Bn relieved 2/17 Bn in the beach-head area and on the SATELBERG track, and 2/17 Bn began to concentrate north of the BUMI R. South of the BUMI there was little change. It is reported that the enemy shelled our positions near the BUMI R with three 75 mm guns. No damage was caused.

On 1 Oct, 2/13 Bn was engaged in hard fighting on the high ground west of KAKAKOG and made some progress. The enemy are reported to be occupying positions along ILEBBE Creek from 634598 to 632592 and further to the south.

On afternoon 30 Sep, patrols of 22 Bn reached the track junction 641487. No contact was made, but there were indications of a recent enemy withdrawal north along the track towards LOGAWENG. Early next morning the battalion began to move forward from KASANGA towards BUKI (656496).

NORTH OF LAE

PIB patrols to KEMEN on 30 Sep found many fires in the area. Natives reported that there were 40 to 50 enemy, apparently stragglers, in the vicinity.

7 AUST DIV

On 30 Sep, 21 Bde continued to advance towards the GUSAP R without meeting any opposition. By nightfall, 2/16 Bn was at 539088, 2/27 Bn at 545085 and 2/14 Bn and Bde HQ at 559075.

BENA Force reported on 30 Sep, that the enemy had withdrawn from positions that he had been holding for some time. This fact and the lack of opposition to 21 Bde indicate that the enemy may have withdrawn from the MARKHAM and Upper RAMU Valleys.

A delayed report from BENA Force states that on 30 Sep a patrol base near ATEMBLE was attacked by 60 Japanese. The attack was partially successful and some equipment was captured by the enemy.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 30 Sep/1 Oct, our patrol craft sank two barges heavily loaded with stores off VINCKE Point (426455). The barges were on a SE course. A third barge, which was loaded with troops, was strafed on the beach and large fires, which may have been burning storehouses, were started. A number of Japanese were seen on the beach.

3. AIR - OWN

FINSCHHAFEN Area

On 1 Oct, ten Vultee Vengeances and eight Bostons in support of our forward troops, bombed and strafed enemy positions at SALANKAUA Plantation, at SALANKAUA Point, POLA Village and MANERA Point. Bombing and strafing are reported accurate but detailed results were not observed.

4. AIR - ENEMY

Early on 1 Oct, Japanese aircraft made three raids in the FINSCHHAFEN area as follows:-

- (a) One light bomber dropped eight bombs near our gun positions.
- (b) Two medium bombers dropped bombs on the beach-head and airstrip areas.
- (c) Two medium bombers bombed and strafed the QUOJA Valley and airstrip.

There were no casualties or damage.

PART II

5. IDENTIFICATIONS

- (a) Elements of SASEBO No 2 SNLP have been identified in the BUMI R area. Strength is not known.

(b) A map captured at BUA (312394) shows that a force known as the MONGI R detachment had as its main strength:-

6 Coy (possibly 80 Regt)
7 Coy (possibly 80 Regt)
OKANO Coy (possibly of 51 Div)

COMMENT:

It is possible that this force may now have arrived in the FINSCHHAFEN area after a withdrawal from the MONGI R.

Signed at 2359 hrs

E. Mander

Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

SECRET

AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 26

(Information to 2000K/30)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1 A 1

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

FINSCHHAFEN AREA (Ref maps 1/25000 series)

On 29 Sep, one company of 2/15 Bn crossed the BUMI R at the MT ford (633600), and continued south through abandoned enemy positions to ILEBBE Creek where it came under fire from the KAKAKOG area. Enemy MGs, mortars and a 75 mm gun, which were firing from SALANKAUA Plantation, were engaged by our artillery. On the same day, a company of 2/13 Bn advanced through thick jungle on the high ground west of KAKAGOG. Heavy rain and deep gullies made progress slow. It was reported that the enemy had withdrawn from some of his forward positions in SALANKAUA Plantation.

A patrol from 2/17 Bn advanced 1500 yards west along the SATELBERG track from the company position at 580662, but made no contact. Further patrols have moved forward in strength in an endeavour to locate the enemy.

A report on 29 Sep stated that there was some indication that the enemy may be withdrawing from FINSCHHAFEN. PIB patrols observed enemy movement north along the track through TIRIMORO, GURUNKUR, KULAWA to SATELBERG.

The move of 2/43 Bn to the FINSCHHAFEN area has been completed.

Enemy killed in the FINSCHHAFEN area up to the morning of 30 Sep were conservatively estimated at 175. This figure, however, did not include casualties inflicted by our artillery and mortar fire and by bombing.

On 29 Sep, 22 Bn continued its unopposed advance eastward along the coastal track and by 1400 hrs the battalion (less one company) had reached KASANGA (607144), approximately eight miles south of FINSCHHAFEN.

7 AUST DIV (Ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile)

KAIAPIT-MARAWASA AREA

On 29 Sep, 2/16 Bn moved to WANKON HILL (652016), and 2/14 Bn advanced from WANKON HILL towards MARAWASA. 2/6 Ind Coy moved north along the track towards ATSUNAS (670025).

To the NW, down the RAMU, a patrol of 2/2 Ind Coy swam the river on night 28/29 Sep and ambushed a party of 100 Japanese west of KESAWAI. Forty-five of the enemy were killed and many wounded, while we suffered few casualties.

2. AIR - OWN

On 29 Sep three Beaufighters strafed and destroyed one barge off LOLABAU I (near UBILI on north coast of NEW BRITAIN).

Four Thunderbolts strafed and destroyed four barges at KAIENG (WP5971) and along the RAI Coast.

3. AIR - ENEMY

Early on 30 Sep, three medium bombers dropped nine bombs between the beach-head and the FINSCHHAFEN air strip. No damage was reported.

PART II - ENEMY COB

4. IDENTIFICATIONS

Documents captured at FINSCHHAFEN in the last few days identify 15 AA Defence Unit, commanded by Sub-Lieut TIRISURO (?), operating in the BUMI R area. Its strength on 26 Sep was 213.

Signed at 2305 hrs

[Signature]
Lt-col
GS

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR SUMMARY NO 1

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 25

(Information to 2000K/29)

Ref Maps : 1 inch to 1 mile series
1:25,000 series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

FINSCHHAFEN AREA (ref maps 1:25,000 series)

On 28 Sep, two companies of 2/13 Bn moved further east against opposition, suffering light casualties. NG Force state that one coy of 2/15 Bn advanced 400 yards NNE from 629595 to the line of enemy bunkers which had been destroyed by our artillery fire.

One company of 2/17 Bn, astride the SATELBERG track about 580662 was attacked three times on night 27/28 Sep. The attacks were repulsed, ~~seven Japanese were killed and weapons and equipment were captured.~~

A captured document shows that there was a Japanese HQ at SISI (572658), and on 28 Sep our artillery engaged this village.

HOPOI AREA (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

22 Bn reached MANGE Point (5242) on 28 Sep, but patrols made no contact with the enemy.

NORTH OF LAE

On 28 Sep, a patrol of 2/24 Bn to 615635 on the enemy line of retreat ~~killed fifteen Japanese~~, and a further patrol is pursuing stragglers. A PIB patrol reported that an enemy party had left KEMEN (609686) heading NW.

PART II

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS: FINSCHHAFEN AREA

A document captured on 27 Sep in the FINSCHHAFEN area reveals that an enemy force was to attack our troops near HELDSBACH from the direction of SATELBERG on 26 Sep and that it consisted of the following:-

3 Bn 80 Regt less 10 and 12 Coys
9 Coy 238 Regt.

The three attacks repulsed by part of 2/17 Bn astride the SATELBERG road at 580662 on night 27/28 Sep may have been made by this force.

3. ENEMY REINFORCEMENTS

Another document dated 8 Sep suggests that reinforcements for 51 DIV, that may have been staging at FINSCHHAFEN at that time, were to be retained there as part of the local defence force.

4. PERSONALITIES

CO 2 Bn 80 Regt : Lt-col TAKAGI Shigeru

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

A captured document dated 26 Sep indicates that the enemy may attempt to hold the area between FINSCHHAFEN and MAPE R. It is reported that there are strong bunkers in SALANKAUA Plantation and also possible defensive positions near SW end of LANGEMAK Bay.

Signed at 2359 hrs.

[Signature]
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 24

(Information to 2000K/28)

Ref Maps : 1 inch to 1 mile series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

FINSCHHAFEN Area (ref maps 1/25,000 series)

On 27 Sep, one company of 2/13 Bn attacked and captured an enemy position at 622591. The battalion then advanced against opposition south east along a spur, over difficult terrain. At last light it was disposed with companies at 620588, 625587, 627588 and 623593.

On 26 Sep, 2/15 Bn drove the enemy from a position at 632594, on the western edge of SALANKAUA Plantation. Fifty Japanese were killed and the remainder fled. Next day the battalion advanced further and in the afternoon closed in on enemy strongposts on the plantation. In the morning, heavy fire from a 75 mm gun, MGs and mortars was directed on our troops moving forward near the mouth of the BUMI. At 2000 hrs, companies were at 630590, 628594, 628598 and 635601.

Our artillery engaged a 75 mm gun in the general area 6357 and MG positions near KAKAGOG on 26 Sep, and silenced them.

2/17 Bn (less two companies) has moved further south and late on 27 Sep was at 630614.

Further north, increased enemy activity at SATELBERG was reported on 27 Sep.

Ground troops reported considerable barge activity in FINSCHHAFEN Harbour on night 26/27 Sep.

HOPOI Area (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

Shortly after midday on 27 Sep, forward troops of 22 Bn reached TIGEDU (436429) but made no contact with the enemy. Three abandoned enemy 75 mm guns were found by our troops in their move east.

7 AUST DIV

KAIAPIT Area

On 27 Sep, extensive patrolling was carried out by our troops. A patrol of PIB, north to 790045 met small parties of Japanese, and reported the area occupied. 2/16 Bn is patrolling in the SAGERAK area, and 2/6 Ind Coy to 780990, where Japanese are said to be in unknown strength.

Air reconnaissance early on 28 Sep showed there were additional foxholes at RAGITSARIA (655048).

A late report indicates that the enemy forces may have withdrawn near MARAWASA. Additional defensive positions have been constructed in this area.

2. SEA - ENEMY

A possible submarine was sighted off TAMI Is at 1800 hrs 27 Sep.

3. AIR - OWN

FINSCHHAFEN

Early on 28 Sep seven Bostons bombed and strafed targets in the LANGEMAK BAY area in support of our forward troops. In the afternoon the attack was repeated by eight Bostons and twelve Vultee Vengeances. Reports from air crews and preliminary reports from ground troops indicate that these attacks were accurate and effective.

WEWAK Area

On morning 28 Sep, 41 Liberators, escorted by a large force of fighters, bombed WEWAK Town and dump areas. Fires and explosions were observed and the fighters claim seven enemy fighters destroyed and two probably destroyed without loss to themselves.

- 2 -

BOGADJIM ROAD

At approximately the same time as the WEWAK attack, eight Liberators bombed the BOGADJIM ROAD. Results of this attack were not observed.

PART II

4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

An entry in a captured notebook indicated the presence of one infantry company and one MG platoon on TAMI I. These troops are thought to have been part of 238 Regt. It is not known to what date the entry refers.

Signed at

0110

hrs

29 Sep

J. H. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR SUMMARY NO 1.

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 23

(Information to 2000K/27)

Ref Maps : 1 inch to 1 mile

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

FINSCHHAFEN Area

On 26 Sep the bridgehead south of the BUMI R was further enlarged. Late in the afternoon, three companies of 2/13 Bn on the right attacked successfully in the area from 625595 to 627585 but steep narrow ridges are restricting movement. On the left, two companies of 2/15 Bn made progress against heavy opposition in the area from 627590 to 627592. Enemy shell fire was reported from 636589.

To the north, 40 enemy were driven from a position about 1200 yards NW of KATIKA after a brief fight.

7 AUST DIV

KAIAPIT Area

On 26 Sep, patrols of 2/16 Bn passed through RUMU (716953) and reached ANTIGIWAN (711965) but made no contact with the enemy.

A patrol of 2/6 Ind Coy reported 70 enemy in the general area around NARUAPUM, and the company patrolled the track in strength.

2. AIR - OWN

WEWAK Area

On morning 27 Sep, 91 Mitchells and seventeen Liberators covered by approximately 130 fighters attacked WEWAK, BORAM, BUT and DAGUA airfields and shipping in WEWAK Harbour and off MUSCHU and KAIRIRU Islands. Between 50 and 60 aircraft were destroyed on the ground and many fires were started in all airfield areas. Two 4000 ton freighters, one 1500 ton tanker, one 1000 ton freighter, one 500 ton lugger, a lugger loaded with fuel, a barge and a power launch were destroyed. Direct hits were scored on one 2000 ton freighter and one 1000 ton freighter, both of which were damaged. Two 500 ton luggers, one 500 ton unidentified vessel and four power launches were damaged.

In KAIRIRU Plantation accurate bombing and strafing caused severe damage among stores and dumps.

A small number of enemy fighters attempted interception. Their attacks showed lack of aggressiveness; the bombers claim to have destroyed five and one probable and the fighters claim three destroyed.

Three Mitchells were lost and others damaged. Enemy AA fire of all types was intense but varying in accuracy. It is thought that our losses were caused by AA fire and not by interception.

3. AIR - ENEMY

In addition to the two raids in the FINSCHHAFEN area on 26 Sep reported yesterday, enemy aircraft dropped six bombs on the south bank of the SONG R and nine medium bombers bombed the track north of the BUMI R.

PART II

4. IDENTIFICATIONS

Documents found BOANA MISSION dated 16 Sep give the following identifications:-

A Regtl HQ
1 Bn 115 Regt
2 Bn 115 Regt

"HIKOSAKI Tai" (probably a coy of 15 Ind Engr Regt)

Signed at 2220 hrs.

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

I. L. Harrison
Lt-col
GS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMYFINSCHHAFFEN Area

Late on 25 Sep it was reported that the enemy had occupied SATELBERG and were holding a strongly dug in position which was being shelled by our artillery. On the same day one company of 2/17 Bn held a position at 580655, astride the track between SATELBERG and HELDSBACH Plantation, with patrols making reconnaissances of the enemy posts. On 26 Sep, enemy troops were reported on the high ground west and SW of KATIKA, at 618680 and 610670.

South of the BUMI R progress has been slow, owing to the difficult terrain and strong opposition from the enemy in well dug in positions. Some of these are on the forward slopes of the KREUTBERG Range and others in SALANKAUA Plantation. Some bunkers have been reported and in addition one 37 mm gun and at least five MG positions have been located towards the coast. By midday, 26 Sep, three companies of 2/13 Bn had crossed the BUMI R at the bridgehead previously established by 2/15 Bn and were in the area from 615595 to 617587. Our artillery has engaged the enemy positions.

HOPOT Area

Forward troops of 22 Bn reached the MONGI R on 25 Sep with a patrol to SAMBEANG (approximately 10 miles north of TIGEDU). A fighting patrol also crossed the river and moved some miles further east along the coastal track. No contact was made with the enemy. An unserviceable mountain gun was captured at 4142, and ten handcuffed natives were found shot.

NORTH of LAE

On 25 Sep a patrol of 2/4 Ind Coy to the log bridge at 617595 found a large empty camp nearby capable of holding 1500 Japanese. Five enemy were killed in the camp. Natives reported that the Japanese had left the area and were heading for MADANG.

7 AUST DIVKAIAPIT Area

On 25 Sep, the enemy evacuated SAGERAK (735947) when a patrol of 2/16 Bn approached, and our troops occupied the village. A patrol of 2/6 Ind Coy moved north from ANTIRIGAN (788922) to outflank NARUAPUM.

The same day, air reconnaissance reported a large enemy force about five miles NW of KAIAPIT.

5 AUST DIVBUANG R Area

On 24 Sep, a patrol of 15 Bn attacked an unknown number of enemy about 595270. Patrols were sent to cut off some of the Japanese who, it was thought, were attempting to escape northward. Enemy casualties were not counted because of the thick jungle in the area.

2. SEA - ENEMY

In evening, 25 Sep, in the FINSCHHAFFEN area, a submarine approached the beach about 6364, but withdrew when fired on by our troops.

3. AIR - OWN

WEWAK Area

On 26 Sep, nineteen Liberators bombed DAGUA strip and dump area, BUT aerodrome, NUBIA Plantation and HANSA BAY. Results were generally unobserved but air crews claim target areas covered by bombs. One enemy aircraft was definitely destroyed on the ground and four to five probably destroyed by bombers. Three single seater fighters attempted interception over NUBIA, but were driven off.

INTERCEPTION

Two squadrons of Lightnings intercepted fifteen to twenty enemy fighters in the WEWAK area. Nine were definitely destroyed and one probably destroyed. There were no Allied losses.

SEARCH

Three ~~Thunderbolts~~ attacked and sank two barges at SAIDOR and thoroughly strafed coastal villages between SAIDOR and LEPSIUS POINT.

4. AIR - ENEMY

On morning 26 Sep, two enemy bombers dropped bombs in the vicinity of SATELBERG and six medium bombers strafed the landing beach. There were no casualties or damage.

PART II

5. PERSONALITIES

78 Regt

2 Bn : CO, Capt KAGAWA, Akiji

3 Bn 9 Coy : OC, Capt HACHIKUWA. Shijuo

6. IDENTIFICATIONS

Documents captured near the MONGI R on 25 Sep indicated that elements of 2 Bn 80 Regt had been in the area.

SIGNED

SS ON WEWAKUS UNOFFICIALS YULAI 2500 TSDA I

Signed at 23 40 hrs (SS\MOOS of Hachikawa)

Lt-col
GS

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR SUMMARY NO 1.

File.

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 21

(Information to 2000K/25)

Ref Maps: 1 inch to 1 mile series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

FINSCHHAFFEN Area

On 24 Sep, 2/13 Bn passed through the bridgehead established by a company of 2/15 Bn on the BUMI R and advanced several hundred yards south over hard going. There was some opposition and our troops suffered light casualties.

On 25 Sep, 2/17 Bn reported the enemy dug in in the vicinity of SATELBERG.

Ground forces have reported considerable barge movement south from CAPE BREDOW.

HOPOT Area

On 24 Sep, 22 Bn continued its advance east and by 1000 hrs forward troops had reached TAMIGIDU (340385). During the advance, enemy dumps were captured at BUA (312394), at 325390 and 330389.

Stores captured included 75 mm ammunition, drums of petrol and tools.

NORTH OF LAE

On 24 Sep, pursuit of remnants of the enemy moving NW near the right bank of the BUSU R was continued through difficult country.

A log bridge across the river at 6159 has been covered by a standing patrol.

7 AUST DIV

KAIAPIT Area

On 24 Sep, one company of 2/16 Bn was reported to have crossed the UMI R and moved to 755935 while another company had crossed the MARKHAM and occupied a position on the high ground 743940 overlooking SAGERAK.

FIB patrols further north reported no enemy movement along the track from NEVAFMARIN (850979) to GUARANTARI (892984).

It is reported that the enemy has established strong defensive positions near the UMI R at 778042, and on 24 Sep, a large body of Japanese was observed moving south from this area. At midday the same day, our troops near NARUAPUM were fired on by the enemy.

A report received on 24 Sep stated that strong positions at BOANA had been evacuated by the Japanese approximately 20 Sep and that the bridge over the BUSIP R, north of GUMBUK had been destroyed.

2. AIR - OWN

On morning 25 Sep attacks were carried out as follows:-

FINSCHHAFFEN Area

Eight Bostons and twelve Vultee Vengeances bombed and strafed SALANKAUA POINT, POLA village and road leading south from POLA village to MOA Creek. Huts were destroyed. The attack was reported accurate by air-crews and ground troops.

RAMU - MARKHAM VALLEY Area

Three Liberators and six Fortresses dropped incendiary bombs in the general area of the headwaters of the RAMU R. Twenty-three Mitchells bombed and strafed the track and villages from MARINGGUSIN (709976) to BOPARIMPUM (185165). Many huts were destroyed and fires started.

BOGADJIM ROAD

Five Liberators bombed the BOGADJIM Road destroying one bridge and scoring several hits on the road.

BARGE SEARCH

Nine Mitchells searched for barges from REIN BAY to CAPE BUSCHING. No serviceable barges were sighted but machine gun positions were bombed in IBOKI Plantation.

AIRCRAFT ON RECCE

One Liberator bombed an AA position at CAPE GLOUCESTER.

3. AIR - ENEMY

On 25 Sep, enemy aircraft made three attacks on our positions in the FINSCHHAFEN area. Some casualties were caused but no further details are available.

The attack on our battery positions at FINSCHHAFEN reported yesterday, was made by twelve bombers and fifty fighters. Sixty bombs were dropped without damage to the guns.

PART II

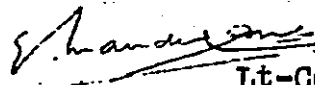
4. IDENTIFICATIONS

The following information has been obtained from captured documents. An enemy force, commanded by Maj-Gen NAKAI, is moving down the RAMU Valley. It comprises the greater part of 78 Regt, plus the following units and detachments:-

80 Regt - 5 Coy
1 Bn 26 Fd Arty Regt
3 Coy 37 Indop Engrs
78 Inf Construction Coy
Indep Tpt Units.
Volunteer Unit (coolies)

It is known that advanced elements of this force were in action in the KALAPIT area on 19/20 Sep.

Signed at 2355 hrs.


Lt-Col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

200
SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 20

(Information to 2000K/24)

Ref Maps : 1 inch to 1 mile

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

FINSCHHAFEN Area

On 23 Sep, two companies of 2/15 Bn moved west along the north bank of the BUMI R and shortly after midday on 24 Sep reached a position 3000 yards inland at 612595. By 1600 hrs, one company had succeeded in crossing the river against some opposition, and moved on to 615591 over bad going. Our artillery at FINSCHHAFEN airfield engaged enemy positions on the south bank of the BUMI.

On night 23/24 Sep, it is reliably reported that a gun, thought to be 75 mm, fired one round from HOLEQA (651570) to seaward.

HOPOI Area

Early in the afternoon 23 Sep 22 Bn, moving west, contacted an enemy party at 315395. Shortly afterwards, forward troops reached 319393, with Bn HQ at 317394.

NORTH of LAE

On 23 Sep patrols of 2/4 Ind Coy and 2/24 Bn attacked enemy parties in the area 6355 and 6356. Eighteen Japanese were killed, and one captured.

7 AUST DIV

KAIAPIT Area

On 23 Sep, patrols of 2/16 Bn are reported to have made contact with the enemy at the UMI R crossing (7693). The battalion was then at ANTIRIGAN (788923).

At KAIAPIT, 141 enemy dead had been buried up to 2000 hrs 23 Sep, with others still unburied.

NORTH of NADZAB

2/2 Pnr Bn has occupied a position at CAMP DIDDY, with patrols forward to BOANA.

AIR - OWN

NEW BRITAIN

On 23 Sep four Beauforts bombed the strip and dump area at CAPE HOSKINS. Fires were started. One Beaufort is missing.

On the same day twelve Kittyhawks bombed GASMATA. All bombs were reported to have hit the target area. One Kittyhawk is missing.

INTERCEPTION

On 24 Sep fifteen Lightnings, which were escorting Mitchells on a barge search, were intercepted by 25 to 30 enemy fighters over FINSCHHAFEN. The enemy fighters were covering nine enemy bombers that were attacking our ground forces in the vicinity of FINSCHHAFEN airfield. Making their attack from above, the enemy succeeded in gaining an initial advantage over our fighters. Two Lightnings are missing and three are damaged. The enemy lost one fighter destroyed and one probably destroyed.

3. AIR - ENEMY

On 23 Sep, three medium bombers dropped 18 bombs on the landing beach south of the SONG R. An ammunition dump was hit and much of it was destroyed, but there were no casualties. One aircraft was hit by our AA fire.

On 24 Sep a battery position at FINSCHHAFEN airfield was bombed. We suffered light casualties only.

- 2 -
PART II

4. PERSONALITIES

78 Regt : Comd: Col MATSUMOTO

3 Bn : Comdr Maj YONEKURA, Tsunco (reported killed in
action 20 Sep)

26 Fd Arty Regt :

1 Bn : Comd: Lt-col KAGEYAMA, Tokio

Signed at 2230 hrs

Manuel
Lt-col
GS

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR SUMMARY NO 1

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 19

(Information to 2000K/23)

Ref Maps: 1 inch to 1 mile series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

FINSCHHAFEN Area.

In the afternoon of 22 Sep two companies of 2/15 Bn attacked the enemy positions west of KATIKA where strong opposition had been met earlier. The attack was successful and 20 enemy were killed. Meanwhile the rest of the battalion had moved to HELDSBACH village. Early on 23 Sep the whole battalion continued its advance down the coast road and shortly after midday it is reported that two companies reached the left bank of the BUMI R (635600) after overcoming slight resistance. The enemy dug in just south of the river. Two other coys were further north at 620622.

On 23 Sep also, 2/13 Bn moved south from the FINSCHHAFEN airfield and other troops including one platoon of PIB moved west along the track to SATELBERG and found it clear of the enemy. 2/17 Bn continued to hold the right flank north of the SONG R.

HOPOI Area.

On 23 Sep our troops moving east from HOPOI, reached WIDERU (1939). No enemy were found.

NORTH OF LAE

On 22 Sep the enemy force which was reported yesterday to have been at 647565 on night 21/22 Sep, moved NW to 635575. Our troops attempting to overtake them found the terrain very difficult. By 1900 hrs they had reached 648563, with a platoon covering the crossing at 628585.

BENA FORCE

Work has been commenced on a landing strip at ONGA, and it is now reported to be suitable for transports.

2. AIR - OWN

YATI R Area

Early on morning 23 Sep, MARAWASA, WANKON, RAGITSUMA, ANTIGIWAN, RUMU and SAGERAK villages were bombed and strafed from tree-top height by twelve Mitchells. All villages were hit, fires started, and a probable ammunition dump at MARAWASA destroyed.

PART II

3. IDENTIFICATIONS (references to 4 miles to 1 inch Strat series)

A captured 20 Div order, dated 8 Sep, indicates that 78 Regt was to concentrate in the MARAWASA area and then to advance and occupy KAIAPIT. Later, in conjunction with remnants of 51 Div, they were to attack our troops in the NADZAB area.

From identifications secured, it is evident that the enemy, who were defeated at KAIAPIT on 20 Sep, were the most forward elements of this force, the main body of which is thought to have arrived at MARAWASA on 22 Sep.

The enemy line of approach was given as through the following villages: PAIPA W06870, GURUMBU W08161, WAMPUN W08349, BOIRUMPU W09338, MARAWASA LL6207, SAGERAK LQ7598, MARKHAM crossing LQ7798 and KAIAPIT.

Signed at 1330 hrs.

[Signature]
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

Spence
SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 18

(Information to 2000K/22)

Ref Maps : 1 inch to 1 mile; Strat series

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

Preceded by a naval bombardment, and with strong air support, 20 Bde made a landing on the beach just south of the SONG R early on 22 Sep. Little opposition was encountered, and the beach was quickly secured. Freshly dug enemy defensive positions near the beach were captured, with light casualties.

By 0940 hrs, our troops had reached their first objectives on a line through knolls at 642700 and 618685, track 620655, HELDSEACH village (632660), to the coast at 647667. The area occupied was approximately 1000 yards north and south of the beach, and 2000 yards inland. Mopping up of enemy pockets of resistance west and NW of KATIKA village is proceeding and two troops of artillery are in action. In an attack near KATIKA (634680) it is reported that the enemy suffered heavy casualties. According to a PW statement there was an enemy force 300 strong in the SONG R area.

A late report stated that a PIB patrol found BONGA clear of the enemy.

North of LAE, an enemy force of more than 300 camped for night 20/21 Sep at the creek 647565 and moved NW next morning, leaving a rear guard. The Japanese were armed with mortars, MMGs, SMGs and rifles, and were carrying packs.

2/24 Bn (less two companies) moved from KUNDA bridge in an attempt to outflank the party and a patrol of 2/4 Ind Coy went up the east bank of the BUSU R to the crossing at 628585.

7 AUST DIV

Following the capture of KAIAPIT, patrols to a radius of two miles on 21 Sep found only stragglers. These were killed. Many documents were found.

BENA FORCE

On 21 Sep, natives from MARAWASA reported that 200 enemy were at NARATAMOA (six miles east MARAWASA) some days ago. It is thought that this party may have moved to KAIAPIT.

Patrols from BENA Force are active in all areas.

2. SEA - OWN

An armoured Diesel engined craft, 120 feet in length with a 25 ft beam, was attacked and sunk during night 21/22 Sep in a position 15 miles NW of SIO. There were no survivors from the crew of between 15 and 20, and the loading of the vessel is unknown. When sighted, it was on a course of 210 degrees, and was reported as probably heading for KIARI.

3. AIR - OWN

FENSCHAFEN AREA

On morning 22 Sep, eighteen Mitchells and nine Bostons bombed and strafed LOGAWENG, WASUTIENG, SIMBANG, KOLEM and KAKAKOG Villages, and GODOWA and BUTIWENG Plantations. A number of houses and huts were destroyed and many others damaged. All targets were thoroughly strafed and fires started.

CAPE GLOUCESTER

On the same morning twenty-one Liberators and twelve Mitchells attacked the airstrip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Many direct hits were scored on the runways and both are considered unserviceable. A direct hit is claimed on an AA position SW of No 1 strip, and the position is believed destroyed.

INTERCEPTION

On 22 Sep approximately 110 Allied fighters, Lightnings and Thunderbolts, were involved in interceptions against 30/35 enemy bombers and 40/45 fighters over the general FINSCHHAFEN area. Final reports indicate that 39 enemy aircraft were destroyed and four probably destroyed. Three Lightnings were lost but one pilot is safe.

The main interception took place when Lightnings intercepted a force of enemy medium bombers attempting to skip-bomb Allied landing craft on the beach north of FINSCHHAFEN. Some enemy bombers jettisoned their bombs and turned tail, while others pressed on with the attack. Interception took place between 5000 ft and sea-level; and one squadron of Lightnings alone destroyed six of the enemy bombers and ten of the enemy fighters, which were providing close cover to the attack, before the enemy aircraft broke away and made off towards CAPE GLOUCESTER.

4. AIR - ENEMY

On 21 Sep, three bombers dropped 12 bombs near the mouth of the BUSO R. There were slight casualties only.

On night 21/22 Sep, an unknown number of enemy aircraft made two runs over BUNA at 5/10,000 feet. Seventeen bombs were dropped. Superficial damage was done to a ship and to the wharf, and a number of MT destroyed and damaged. A launch and an LCV were also hit and damaged. Total casualties were 10 killed and 31 wounded.

On morning 22 Sep, enemy aircraft bombed the landing beach south of the SONG R, inflicting one casualty but no damage.

PART II

5. IDENTIFICATIONS

On 20 Sep, elements of the following units were identified at KAIAPIT:

78 Regt : HQ 3 Bn
 9 Coy 3 Bn
 11 Coy 3 Bn
80 Regt : MORISADA Coy 2 Bn.

6. PERSONALITIES

A PW captured on 22 Sep north of FINSCHHAFEN stated:

Comdr 3 Bn 80 Regt : Maj UCHIYAMA, Hidemaru
Comdr 9 Coy " : 1/Lt SAWAMURA, Mitsuo.

7. TOPOGRAPHICAL

The following walking times for tracks HOPOI-FINSCHHAFEN area have been supplied by a missionary from HOPOI:

- (a) HOPOI north along BUHEM R to OGERAMNANG (LS 0973) - 3½ days
OGERAMNANG to FINSCHHAFEN via TABU and KULUNGTOFU - 5½ days
- (b) KALSIA (LR 8260) north to MOMALILI - 1½ days
MOMALILI west to SAMANZING (LR 7774) - 2 days
SAMANZING to GAWAN (LR 7062) - 2 days

Signed at 0010 hrs 23 Sep

E. Manderson
Lt-col
GS

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR SUMMARY NO 1.

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 17

(Information to 2000K/21)

Ref Maps: 1 inch to 1 mile
4 miles to 1 inch Strat series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

7 AUST DIV

In the fighting around KAIAPIT on 19/20 Sep, the enemy made two unsuccessful attempts during the night to break through the perimeter held by 2/6 Indep Coy. Early in the morning 20 Sep, a Japanese force estimated at 200 made a further determined attack from the NW which was repulsed. Later our troops attacked and the village and mission were finally in our hands by 1000 hrs. The enemy retired having suffered 120 casualties. Two platoons of PIB arrived shortly afterwards and occupied a position on KAIAPIT hill, with patrols west along the track from the MANIANG R.

The air strip, which had been cleared by the Japanese was extended and transports landed there on 21 Sep.

WAMPIT FORCE

On 20 Sep patrols from C Coy 24 Bn between MARKHAM Point and LABU 1 and in the BUANG R area made no contact with the enemy.

BENA FORCE

A patrol which returned from KAINANTU on 18 Sep saw seven enemy at BUMBUM. They reported that the GUSAP R was in flood. Patrols to DUMPU reported no enemy there.

2. AIR - OWN

TAMI ISLANDS

On morning 21 Sep twelve Vultee Vengeances, nine Marauders and seven Bostons bombed and strafed villages and a suspected radio station on KAIAL and WONAM Islands. All buildings are reported damaged or destroyed.

CAPE GLOUCESTER

Twenty-two Liberators bombed the airfields and bivouac areas near CAPE GLOUCESTER. Dense clouds of smoke and dust prevented observation of results.

BOGADJIM AREA and BOGADJIM - DAUMOINA Road

Sixteen Mitchells again bombed and strafed targets in the BOGADJIM area and bridges, camps and villages along the BOGADJIM-DAUMOINA Road. A jetty at the PALPA R and a bridge at the mouth of the GORI R were partially destroyed. On the road itself three bridges were destroyed and others damaged, and bombs were dropped accurately on hatted areas at BOAK, YAULA and DAUMOINA. One Mitchell was lost and two damaged.

GASMATA

Ten Beauforts and three Bostons attacked GASMATA airfield. Bombs were dropped but results were not observed. The Bostons also strafed a ~~surfaced~~ submarine 38 miles south of GASMATA and scored hits on the deck cargo. The submarine crash-dived.

3. AIR - ENEMY

The raid on NADZAB on 20 Sep was made by nine medium bombers escorted by sixteen fighters. In all, 20 anti-personnel and one 500 lb bombs were dropped. Damage was negligible and casualties light. The successful interception by our fighters was reported yesterday.

Early on morning 21 Sep an enemy float plane was sighted 10 miles south of TAMI Islands.

PART II

4. IDENTIFICATIONS

- (a) A Japanese paybook was captured at GUMBUK (LR5072) following a patrol clash on 13 Sep on the Camp DIDDY - BOANA Track. It belonged to a member of 6 Coy 238 Regt.

2
(b) Elements of 5 Coy 2 Bn 80 Regt have been identified at
MARAWASAI

Signed at 2357 hrs

E. Manderone

Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

SECRET1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 16

(Information to 2000K/20)

Ref Maps : 1 inch to 1 mile series

PART I
OPERATIONS1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY7 AUST DIV

At midday, 18 Sep, 2/14 Bn reached the junction of the BUSIP and BUNBOK Rivers (two miles south of BOANA) and reported meeting slight opposition. Next afternoon an encircling movement against the enemy, who were holding BOANA in unknown strength, was begun.

On 19 Sep, 2/6 Ind Coy and B Coy PIB, which were moving forward from SANGAN, made contact with the enemy about a mile south of KAIAPIT. Our troops attacked and drove the enemy, estimated at between 50 and 100, from the village. Twenty Japanese were killed, and KAIAPIT was occupied.

5 AUST DIV

Contact between 15 Bn and WAMPIT Force was made on 18 Sep. On 19 Sep a patrol from 15 Bn encountered a party of seven enemy just north of LABU I. Six were killed. OWEN guns used by the enemy were captured and were reported to be in good condition.

One 105 mm and two probable 75 mm guns have been found on the coast at SCHNEIDER POINT and at 684080 respectively (1/25,000 series).

2. SEA - OWN

On night 19/20 Sep, a north-bound barge was sunk in LANGEMAK BAY. Heavy fire from small arms was encountered from the south side of the bay and from NUGIDU Peninsula.

An attack was made on an enemy submarine in VITIAZ STRAIT approximately 20 miles south of ROOKE I. The submarine, which was on a course of 310 degrees, crash-dived and depth charges were dropped with unknown results.

3. AIR - OWNBOGADJIM - DAUMOINA ROAD AND BOGADJIM AREA

On 19 Sep two Aircobras dive-bombed bridges near DAUMOINA and strafed vehicles on the road. One bridge was destroyed, one partially destroyed and five trucks were probably destroyed by strafing.

On morning 20 Sep, eight Fortresses and twenty-three Mitchells bombed and strafed the road, bridges, camps and villages at the southern end of the road. Two bridges were destroyed, one probably destroyed and near misses were scored on five others. At YAUUA hits were scored by strafing on 15 to 20 three ton trucks, the road was severely damaged and huts were destroyed.

At the same time, twelve Mitchells bombed ERIMA Plantation (just north of BOGADJIM), the mouth of the GOGOL River and the jetty at BOGADJIM. A direct hit was scored on a warehouse at ERIMA, two barges were destroyed and a bridge partially destroyed at the mouth of the GOGOL River and a portion of the BOGADJIM jetty was demolished by three direct hits.

BARGE SEARCH

On 20 Sep twelve Mitchells searched for barges in the MADANG area and at BILLI BILLI I. One small barge and a jetty were hit at BILLI BILLI I, hits were scored on a bridge over the GUM River and in camps and dumps at JOMBA, JABOB and BILLI BILLI I.

WEWAK AREA

On morning 20 Sep, seven Liberators bombed BORAM airfield. Several fires were started and a direct hit was scored on one grounded aircraft. Seven enemy fighters intercepted, two of which were destroyed without loss. At the same time a squadron of Liberators attacked WEWAK airfield. Reports from this squadron are not yet available, but escorting fighters report hits scored on the strip.

INTERCEPTION NADZAB AREA

Sixteen Lightnings, while returning to base after providing top cover for Liberators attacking WEWAK, were intercepted by sixteen enemy fighters in the NADZAB area at approximately 1145 hrs 20 Sep. Three enemy fighters were destroyed and one probably destroyed. One Lightning was lost but the pilot parachuted over NADZAB and is believed safe.

4. AIR - ENEMY

Early on 20 Sep, an enemy aircraft dropped two bombs at the mouth of the BUNGA R, causing no damage or casualties.

Shortly before midday, two of the strips at NADZAB were bombed. No details are available.

PART II

5. IDENTIFICATIONS

PW captured at LAE on 18 Sep is reported to be from 11 Coy 3 Bn 238 Regt. He gave the following information:

(a) HQ 238 Regt, 1 and 3 Bns plus 5 Coy arrived LAE in August.

(b) The remainder of 2 Bn in the middle of Aug was

6 Coy at FINSCHHAFEN
7 Coy at GALLI and SIO
8 Coy at ALEXISHAFEN

(c) 1,000 men from 239 Regt were working on airfield and roads at ALEXISHAFEN.

(d) The remainder of 239 Regt were on road and bridge construction work between WEWAK and MADANG.

(e) Two battalions 237 Regt were working on airfields at WEWAK.

Note : An identification of 6 Coy 238 Regt was obtained in the LAE area in Sep.

Signed at 2355 hrs

Mander
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

File
SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 15

(Information to 2000K/19)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series
1 inch to 1 mile series
MADANG Strat

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

7 AUST DIV

Shortly after midday on 18 Sep, 2/6 Indep Coy and B Coy PIB left SANGAN for KAIAPIT, but no reports of progress have yet been received. 25 Bde has moved to the MUNUM WATERS - YALU area.

WAMPIT FORCE

C Coy 24 Bn has established a forward base at TARI, and on 18 Sep patrols pushed on towards LABU 1. Fresh Japanese footprints were found on the track to TARI, and also stores and documents.

The Japanese defensive position at MARKHAM Point was found to consist of strongly built pillboxes, capable of holding a total of 250 men. An air raid shelter had been made 12 feet underground and many booby traps had been laid in the area.

5 AUST DIV

Early on 18 Sep, 30 to 35 enemy attacked C Coy 15 Bn position near LABU 1. Thirteen of them were killed and the remainder withdrew. C Coy later reported its area clear of the enemy. There was a second minor attack near B Coy position at LABU 3, when a further nine enemy were killed.

BENA FORCE

A native constable reports that an enemy party arrived at OLD DUMPU on night 15/16 Sep. Our patrol activity continues in all areas.

2. AIR - OWN

FINSCHHAFEN AREA

On 19 Sep 12 Mitchells and nine Marauders bombed HELDSBACH Mission, FINSCHHAFEN airfield, KAMLOA, SALANKAUA Village area, KAKAKOG, KOLEM, and HOLEQA. All areas were thoroughly strafed. The attacks are reported to be accurate and fires, explosions and much smoke were seen.

Six of the above aircraft carried out a barge search from SIO to FINSCHHAFEN. Two type "A" barges were attacked near GNEISENAU Point and a 30 ft launch off SIO. No hits were scored.

CAPE GLOUCESTER

Twenty-four Liberators and twelve Fortresses bombed both airfields and the dump areas at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Hits were scored on the runways and dense black smoke was observed from the wooded section of the main dump area.

PART II

3. PERSONALITIES

COC 51 Div, Lt-Gen NAKANO Hidemitsu, is reported by a PW to have died of malaria at SALAMAUA. His successor, according to another PW, is Lt-Gen OKAMOTO, Yasugi. This officer previously commanded 51 Depot Div.

4. IDENTIFICATIONS

According to a PW, 77 Inf Regt is still in KOREA. This information suggests that the third regt of 20 Div in NEW GUINEA is 78. (79 and 80 Regts have already been identified.)

Signed at 21.5 hours

Manning
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

IA *File*
FA, p
SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 14

(Information to 2000K/18)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000
1 inch to 1 mile series
IAE Strat

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

On 17 Sep shortly after midday a patrol from US Parachute Regt from YALU made contact with the enemy in a position at 605527 and inflicted some casualties. On the same day extensive patrolling by 2/16 Bn in the mountainous country between the upper BUMBU and the BUSU revealed no sign of the enemy and reports from local natives confirm this. Patrols have also been active in the BOANA area.

2/6 Ind Coy is now on the west side of the LERON at 994729 with patrols forward to SANGAN. No enemy troops have been met.

South of the MARKHAM part of 15 Bn reached LABU I (643375) shortly after midnight 16/17 Sep and sent patrols up the right bank of the river. The remainder of the battalion was disposed along the coast from LABU I to SUGARLOAF. The enemy has abandoned his positions at MARKHAM POINT. A patrol from C Coy 24 Bn passed through them on 17 Sep and moved on towards LABU I.

BENA FORCE

The following information has been received from NEW GUINEA Force :

Reliable natives report that the enemy is moving from the RAI Coast and the Upper MARKHAM to the KAIAPIT area, that small bodies of the enemy are camped in the bush in the vicinity and that they have armed natives patrolling the MARKHAM.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 17/18 Sep two north-bound barges laden with troops were attacked off the TEWAE R (LS 4396). One was sunk and the other set on fire and possibly sunk. Heavy fire was encountered from 75 mm guns and MGs on the shore, but no damage was sustained.

3. AIR - OWN

FINSCHHAFEN AREA

On 18 Sep, six Marauders bombed buildings and a possible store dump at HELDSBACH Mission and three Marauders bombed the FINSCHHAFEN area. The bombing is reported accurate. Buildings at HELDSBACH were destroyed and fires were started in both target areas. At about the same time eight Bostons accurately bombed and strafed the TAMI Is.

KAIAPIT

Three Aircobras strafed and set on fire huts in the village area.

BARGE SEARCH

Six Beaufighters on barge search near TALASEA strafed four small vessels and three barges in the vicinity of CAPE HOSKINS. Two vessels and two barges were set on fire and others were damaged.

Man...

Lt-col
GS

Signed at 0130 hrs 19 Sep

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 13

(Information to 2000K/17)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. CAPTURE OF LAE

Some further details of the events leading up to the capture of LAE on 16 Sep are now available.

25 Bde of 7 Aust Div advancing from the NW overcame resistance in the approaches to the town and forward troops entered LAE about midday.

Following an air bombardment 9 Aust Div attacked from the east. With the close support of artillery 24 and 26 Bdes made rapid progress and entered the township area. Contact with 7 Div was made about 1330 hours.

In the closing stages, enemy resistance weakened and much equipment was abandoned by the garrison. Some groups appear to be making their way north in an attempt to escape.

7 AUST DIV

On morning 16 Sep, while 2/31 Bn and 2/33 Bn attacked enemy positions a few hundred yards west of COX'S Road Camp, 2/25 Bn swung out to the right and then continued the advance towards LAE. Meanwhile 2/2 Pnr Bn moved forward from the north bank of the MARKHAM. Shortly after midday forward elements of 2/25 Bn were in LAE. After overcoming the resistance near COX'S, 2/31 and 2/33 Bns occupied the LAE airfield in the early afternoon.

The enemy suffered heavy casualties in attempts to halt the advance of 25 Bde down the MARKHAM VALLEY Road. Large dumps and many discarded weapons were found by our troops.

At the end of the day dispositions of 25 Bde were: Bde HQ north end of airfield; 2/31 Bn and 2/2 Pnr Bn south end of field; 2/33 Bn JACOBSENS; 2/25 Bn EMERYS.

Late on 16 Sep, a battalion of the US Parachute Regt on the BUMBU R was still holding a strong position at 592530. Some enemy were reported to be moving up the track which runs NW along the river.

On the afternoon of the same day, HQ 21 Bde and 2/16 Bn were at YALU and 2/14 Bn was passing through CAMP DIDDY.

9 AUST DIV

On morning 16 Sep, preceded by an air bombardment and supported by artillery 24 Bde and 26 Bde (less 2/24 Bn) made a co-ordinated attack on LAE from the east and NE. No opposition was met and our troops quickly advanced to, and entered the town. 2/43 Bn then moved to VOCO Point and 2/32 Bn through LAE proper.

Later, HQ 24 Bde was established at 693392 and HQ 26 Bde at 697394, with the battalions concentrated in the general LAE area. There was no change in 20 Bde dispositions.

2/24 Bn moved north on 16 Sep and reached the SANKWEP R north of its junction with the BUSU.

5 AUST DIV

A patrol of 15 Bn occupied LABU 3 on 16 Sep, while another reached the western edge of the swamp at 585280. The enemy pocket at MARKHAM Point is still holding out.

2. AIR - OWN

On morning 16 Sep, seventeen Liberators bombed dumps in vicinity of the airfield at ALEXISHAFEN. In the LAE area, in addition to the attacks by medium and light bombers already reported, twelve Fortresses bombed CHINATOWN. Dense smoke, explosions and probably fuel fires resulted. FINSCHHAFEN was also attacked.

BARGE SEARCH

Early on 17 Sep, six Mitchells searched for barges between REISS Point and LANGEMAK BAY. One barge in WALDE BAY was damaged and villages along the coast were strafed.

3. AIR - ENEMY

At 2215 hrs 16 Sep, two aircraft dropped bombs north of HOPOI and in the sea five miles south of BULU. No damage was reported.

PART II

4. ENEMY LOSSES

Up to date, 7 and 9 Aust Divs have reported a total of 830 enemy killed. It is estimated that when the full count is made this number will be more than doubled.

Signed at 0500 hours 18 Sep

[Signature]
Lt-col
CS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

Spans

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 12

(Information to 2000/16)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 Series
1 inch to 1 mile WAGO

OPERATIONS

1. CAPTURE OF LAE

LAE was captured early in the afternoon of 16 Sep. No detailed information of the present location of the brigades of 7 and 9 Aust Divs nor of the sequence of events leading up to the capture of LAE is yet available.

The operations on 15 Sep were briefly as follows :

9 AUST DIV

In the coastal sector 24 Bde continued its advance. At first light 2/28 Bn captured an enemy position about three hundred yards west of MALAHANG ANCHORAGE and then moved on to 711391. In the afternoon 2/32 Bn occupied MALAHANG MISSION.

20 Bde completed the crossing of the BUSU and by late afternoon had occupied the south end of MALAHANG air strip and the western approach to it.

Further north 26 Bde after clearing resistance in the bridge-head area began to move south and 2/23 Bn occupied the SAWMILL without opposition shortly before midday. Later 2/48 Bn passed through and by 1700 hrs were on the north end of the MALAHANG air strip, which was thus completely in our hands. In the same afternoon 2/23 Bn reached 694426 with patrols forward to 690426.

7 AUST DIV

The advance down the MARKHAM VALLEY Rd was continued and part of 2/2 Pnr Bn moved down the north bank of the MARKHAM towards its mouth.

Early in the day, a battalion of the US Parachute Regt made contact with a large number of enemy on the BUMBU R track at 592530. Hard fighting took place and enemy casualties so far reported total 45.

HQ 21 Bde and part of 2/16 Bn were at MACS CAMP and 2/14 Bn moved towards BOANA.

5 AUST DIV

On 15 Sep, two companies of 15 Bn regained contact with the enemy retreating north from SALAMAU, and occupied a spur running east from SUGARLOAF. One platoon pushed on towards LABU LAGOON.

2. AIR - OWN

On 16 Sep several attacks were made on LAE. Marauders bombed WEEBS, seven Mitchells bombed and strafed EMERYS and nine Bostons bombed and strafed the CHINATOWN Defence Area.

Man... ..
Lt-col
GS

Signed at 2359 hrs

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 11

(Information to 2000K/15)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series

PART I

OPERATIONS

CORRECTION:

The fourth sub-para headed "LAE" of para 1, Summary No 10, is cancelled and the following is substituted:

It appears possible that the enemy may make an attempt to withdraw a part of his force from LAE. If this is attempted it would further appear that he will march his wretched men across the mountains to SIO.

1. LAND - OWN and ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

In the coastal sector increased opposition was met by 24 Bde on 14 Sep. The advance was however continued and our forward troops are now only 1000 yards east of the BUMBU R.

On the coastal track itself 2/28 Bn encircled and captured strong enemy positions at MALAHANG anchorage and moved forward to 713391.

In the centre, 2/32 Bn moved NW from 726394 and captured a village at 718399. The advance was continued and the battalion has occupied the track junction 717400.

2/43 Bn on the right attacked enemy strong points at the crossroads 718406. Details are not yet available.

On 14 Sep also, 20 Bde reached the BUSU R near the mouth and 2/15 Bn crossed and moved to NEW YINGA.

In 26 Bde area the crossing of the BUSU by the rest of 2/24 Bn was postponed till dark owing to enemy MG fire in enfilade on the bridge. The crossing was however completed during night 14/15 Sep.

Near the junction of the SANKWEP and the BUSU 2/4 Indep Coy reported that 100 Japanese were moving north at 697513.

7 AUST DIV

On 15 Sep 25 Bde, following up its successes of the previous day, continued to advance on LAE and by midday had captured EDWARDS. Bde HQ has moved forward to HEATHS.

Enemy casualties to date are estimated at 300, and much enemy equipment was captured at HEATHS on 14 Sep, some of it still in its packing.

On 13 Sep a patrol from the US Parachute Regt, with a small detachment of PIB made contact with enemy strong points on the BOANA track, six hours north of CAMP DIDDY.

At NADZAB, landing of HQ 21 Bde and 2/14 Bn was completed on 15 Sep.

WAMPIT FORCE

During night 13/14 Sep, the sound of launch engines was heard east of MARKHAM Point.

The next day patrols to within 200 yards of the enemy position at 568432 saw no movement.

5 AUST DIV

On 14 Sep part of 15 Bn moved by barge up the coast and, in the afternoon, landed unopposed at 6324. A Coy has moved to within a few hundred yards of the BWUSSI R with C Coy in the area 6412.

2. AIR - OWN

WEWAK AREA

On morning 15 Sep 24 Liberators accurately bombed BORAM and WEWAK airfields. Four grounded aircraft were destroyed and large fire and explosions were seen. Our bombers were intercepted by a large number of enemy fighters, reported by one squadron as at least 70. The bombers claim to have destroyed 39 enemy fighters and to have probably destroyed 13, whilst Lightnings providing close cover destroyed nine and probably destroyed one. Several Liberators were damaged but all returned to base safely. One Lightning was lost but the pilot bailed out and is believed safe.

LAE AREA

On the same day eight Fortresses bombed CHINATOWN. Hits were scored on buildings and large explosions were seen, but detailed observation was prevented by cloud. One Fortress is missing.

BARGE SEARCH

On morning 15 Sep 23 Mitchells bombed and strafed a dump at BOGADJIM and searched for barges from ALEXISHAFEN along coast to FINSCHHAFEN, thence to CAPE GLOUCESTER and BORGEN BAY. Fourteen barges were destroyed and the dump at BOGADJIM was left in flames.

PART II

3. ENEMY CASUALTIES

The following statement by a PW recently captured in the MARKHAM R area gives an indication of the high rate of casualties suffered by the Japanese at SALAMAU.

PW stated he belonged to 2 Bn 66 Regt which left SALAMAU 9 Sep 130 strong.

A strength return captured early in Jul gave the strength of this Battalion when it arrived at MUBO on 17 Jun as 552.

Signed at 2300hrs

Manuel
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

File

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 10

(Information to 2000K/14)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series
1 inch to 1 mile

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

The speed of the advance towards LAE has increased and enemy resistance appears to be weakening. In the coastal sector 2/25 Bn, after patrol actions during night 13/14 Sep, continued their forward move. Some opposition was met and two enemy positions were captured. By last light 13 Sep our troops had reached the dump area 721392 and were still advancing. In both the attacks during the day the enemy broke and fled after suffering casualties. Total enemy killed by this battalion was 29.

In afternoon 13 Sep 2/43 Bn, with strong artillery support, captured NEW YANGA and moved on to 727406. Early on 14 Sep 2/17 Bn also crossed the BUSU.

Besides supporting the infantry at NEW YANGA, our artillery put down harassing fire on enemy strong points at LAE and registered on positions at the north end of MAIAHANG strip and at the sawmill 7044.

To the north, in 26 Bde area, a bridge was constructed across the BUSU during night 12/13 Sep and two companies of 2/24 Bn crossed against opposition. Mopping up in the bridgehead area is in progress.

7 AUST DIV

On 13 Sep a patrol of 2/2 Pnr Bn reached the MARKHAM Rd at 612433. Earlier in the day visual communication with WAMPIT Force was established.

By 1500 hrs 14 Sep WHITTAKERS, HEATHS and VERNONS were captured by 25 Bde with few casualties. Reported enemy killed up to night 13 Sep were 100.

WAMPIT FORCE

The enemy at MARKHAM PT are now contained in a defensive perimeter 100 by 300 yards about 568432. This position is surrounded by our troops.

In the BUANG R area a patrol from 24 Bn reached a point within 1500 yds of the shore just north of the river mouth, but withdrew after engaging a strip along the coast with mortar fire.

LAE

From late messages it is apparent that the enemy has been withdrawing from LAE. This move may have been in progress for the last four to five days. Troops were to march overland via MELAMBI R and ILOKI to SIO.

5 AUST DIV

Pursuit of the enemy north from SALAMAU was continued on 13 Sep, and only slight opposition was encountered. Forward troops of 15 Bn now hold the river crossing at 658093, three miles north of MALOLO, with the rest of the battalion moving up. Part of 47 Bn is on the coastal track a half mile west of BUSAMA. Adv HQ 29 Bde is at BUKUAP 2.

Four guns, including two 155 mm, were found in the BUKUAP area but all had been rendered unserviceable.

PART II

2. TACTICS

The following is an extract from a message, dated 5 Sep, which was sent by a company commander of 1 Bn 66 Regt to his CO :

"We are planning to cut the supply and communication line of the enemy at the rear of CHARLEY HILL . . . and also, should the wind blow favourably to us, we will set the enemy positions on fire".

3. EVACUATION OF SALAMAUA

A movement order captured by 7 Aust Div today shows that

- (a) The following units were to move from SALAMAUA to LAE on 15 Sep, using eight barges :

Detachment of 3 Bn 21 Regt
2 Fd Hospital
15 Fd Pom Pom Coy
20 Fd Pom Pom Coy
Naval Troops

- (b) Those unable to board the barges were to march overland.

- (c) Six to eight barges were to be used for evacuations every night from 6 to 14 Sep.

Signed at 0140 h. 15 Sep

[Signature]
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

1A1 Lilo
SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 9

(Information to 2000K/13)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 Series

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

On the afternoon of 12 Sep the enemy positions at OLD YANGA were captured and forward elements of 24 Bde are now advancing towards the BUMBU R.

At KUNDA Bridge, 2/4 Indep Coy ambushed three parties of Japanese, killing six and dispersing the rest.

Our artillery was active during 12 Sep, putting down harassing fire on enemy positions on the MALAHANG and LAE airfields.

7 AUST DIV

On 12 Sep after a sharp engagement the enemy was driven from two of his positions at WHITAKERS Plantation by 2/25 Bn. Casualties were inflicted and some equipment was captured.

HQ 25 Bde and 2/33 Bn moved further down the road to 569492, and one troop of 54 Bty was in position at 555528 in support of 2/25 Bn. 2/31 Bn and the second troop of 54 Bty are concentrated in the NADZAB area.

On the same day 3 Bn of the US Parachute Regt arrived at YALU from MUNUM and patrols moved down the BUMBU R. No report has yet been received.

Patrols of 2/2 Pnr Bn down the MARKHAM to 583434 and to NARINSERA WATERS Creek were unable to make contact with the enemy. One company is now at track junction 584433.

WAMPIT FORCE

The Japanese ambush position at 568431, which was unsuccessfully attacked on 11 Sep, was occupied without opposition the following morning by C Coy 24 Bn. Our troops in the area had to advance through minefields.

Reconnaissance aircraft on afternoon 12 Sep reported 40 to 50 lakatois (native outrigger canoes) beached on the north bank of the MARKHAM between LABUIs and 620420.

5 AUST DIV

The capture of SALAMAU and the surrounding area has been completed and the remnants of the enemy force are now in full retreat along the coastal track from MALOLO. On the morning of 12 Sep the Peninsula was occupied by a company of 42 Bn without opposition and 15 Bn seized the high ground around KELA. After overcoming some resistance it advanced to 717038.

During night 11/12 Sep the enemy withdrew from the well prepared positions he held from 720011 to 702006 and at first light 12 Sep, 2/7 Bn took up the pursuit and regained contact on the line NEW WANABU-ONE TREE HILL-ASINI. The Bn attacked and drove back the enemy who withdrew to the NW.

During the day 58/59 Bn moved up on the left and seized the high ground just North of ONE TREE HILL. In the coastal area, one coy of 42 Bn joined 15 Bn South of MISSION Point, while 2 and 3 Bns 162 US Regt remained in occupation of the general area SALAMAU airfield and the shore of BAYERN Bay. A few stray enemy only were found and much equipment was captured.

2. AIR - OWN

WEWAK AREA

On morning 13 Sep sixteen Liberators bombed DAGUA airfield and five Liberators the airfield at BUT. Large fires and explosions were observed and approximately eighteen aircraft were reported burning on the ground. A small number of enemy fighters intercepted. The bombers claim nine enemy fighters probably destroyed and fifteen Lightnings providing cover for this attack destroyed three more.

LAE AREA

During the afternoon twelve Mitchells accurately bombed and strafed TARI and the track West towards MARKHAM Point.

INTERCEPTION

On 13 Sep eight Thunderbolts intercepted an unknown number of enemy aircraft 40 miles NW of MARILINAN. One enemy bomber and one fighter were destroyed.

AIRCRAFT ON RECCE

One Fortress bombed FINSCHHAFEN.

3. AIR - ENEMY

Later reports of the attack by twelve bombers on our gun positions near the mouth of BUREP R on 12 Sep show that our troops sustained some casualties and that some equipment was destroyed or damaged.

PART II

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

A reliable report states that the enemy intends using land mines in the LAE area.

Signed at 1150 hrs

J. Mandel
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 8

(Information to 2000K/12)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series
1 inch to 1 mile

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

On 11 Sep 2/28 Bn enlarged the bridgehead across the BUSU R and patrols moved west along the coast. In the actions by this battalion 9 and 10 Sep, at least 111 Japanese were killed, and 2 same HMGs and 11 IMGs were captured.

Using two punts attached to a rope 2/43 Bn crossed the BUSU on 11 Sep and next day moved west of the YANGA track to 734406. Resistance in the OLD YANGA plantation area was overcome and the battalion is now advancing towards NEW YANGA.

There are indications that the enemy has strong positions at 734417 and also in the MALAHANG anchorage area.

Attempts by 26 Bde to cross the river further north have been prevented by MG and mortar fire.

20 Bde, which is being relieved by 4 Bde, is now moving west from the BUSU to come into divisional reserve in the BUREP R area.

Naval forces operating off LAE on night 10/11 Sep were fired on by three 6 inch guns from the MT LUNAMAN area.

Natives in the area of our occupation are gradually returning to their villages. Many of them had recently been in LAE, and these stated that no local natives were working for the Japanese, but that boys from RABAUL, MADANG and the SEPIK were being used to unload stores from submarines.

According to the natives, the Japanese move out of LAE at night to avoid our bombing. There were many Malays and Chinese of both sexes in the timber NW of MALAHANG.

7 AUST DIV

During 11 Sep D Coy 2/25 Bn maintained contact with the enemy at JENSONS and inflicted a number of casualties.

The remainder of the battalion has moved SE down the road to 554528, with 2/33 Bn and HQ 25 Bde at YALU. Patrols of 2/33 Bn were on the BUMBU R.

3 Bn of the US Parachute Regt, under command 25 Bde, has moved to MUNUM from NADZAB.

Late on 11 Sep a patrol of 2/2 Pnr Bn encountered an enemy party at 572437 and inflicted casualties. The battalion is now at 569438.

US Parachute Regt patrols to CAMP DIDDY and west to the ERAP R reported no signs of the enemy.

WAMPIT FORCE

On afternoon 11 Sep at MARKHAM Pt, C Coy 24 Bn supported by mortars attacked the ambush position at 568431. The enemy moved forward under our mortar fire and stopped our advance with MG fire along cleared lanes.

Later our troops, again supported by mortars, advanced to 567430 without opposition. During the day 95 casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

5 AUST DIV

Enemy resistance in the township area of SALAMUA is at an end and our troops now occupy the airfield and the ISTHUS. No opposition was met during the final stages of our advance, and the enemy forces appear to have withdrawn to the high ground on KEIA HILL and SW towards BUIRIS CREEK. There may also be some enemy left on the Peninsula.

On 11 Sep after a rapid advance from their position on SALAMAUA airfield B Coy 42 Bn occupied the ISTHAUS shortly after midday. Other forward companies of 42 and 47 Bns crossed the FRANCISCO at first light and in the early afternoon 16 Pl of 42 Bn took over control of the ISTHAUS from B Coy, which then moved on towards the forward slopes of KELA HILL at 734017.

On the left, 58/59 Bn and 2/3 Ind Coy attacked and captured the ROUGH HILL 7198 after a hard fight. At the same time 2/7 Bn drove the enemy from the feature known as the "HAND" 720008.

The enemy withdrew from SAVIGE SPUR and ARNOLDS CREST and is now in a well prepared defensive line from 720011 to 702006.

2. AIR - OWN

IAE

On morning 12 Sep 10 Liberators and 12 Fortresses dropped approximately 50 tons of bombs on DIDDYMAN'S, EMERY'S and on a dump and defended area 900 yards NE of JACOBSENS. Bombing of all targets was reported accurate but detailed results were not observed.

SEARCH FOR BARGES

On morning 12 Sep nine Mitchells searched for barges from SAIDOR to LANGEMAK BAY. No barges were found.

On afternoon 12 Sep nine Mitchells searched for barges from BORGAN BAY to CAPE BUSCHING. These aircraft attacked three to four barges just west of CAPE GLOUCESTER and one barge loaded with boxes off LAGUNEN PT. All were either destroyed or damaged.

3. AIR - ENEMY

ten.

On morning 12 Sep/dive bombers, escorted by seven fighters, raided MOROBE. Preliminary reports state that there was some damage to two of our surface craft. Two of the dive bombers were shot down.

At midday 12 bombers ineffectively attacked our gun positions near the BUREP R.

PART II

4. IDENTIFICATIONS

Captured 51 Div orders dated 2 Jul at SALAMAUA indicate that 5 Div Fd Hospital, with accommodation for 500, was at HOPOI on 12 Jan.

5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

On 6 Sep, when enemy guns shelled our positions near ARNOLD'S CREST, twelve rounds only out of the fifty-six fired exploded.

Signed at 0005 hrs 13 Sep

J. M. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR SUMMARY NO 1.

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 7

(Information to 2000K/11)

Ref Maps: 1/25,000 series
1 inch to 1 mile

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

The BUSU R is still rising and has held up the advance on IAE from the east. On the left flank at the river mouth 2/28 Bn is still holding a bridgehead on the west bank. This bridgehead is bounded by 740 Easting grid and 406 Northing grid. On 10 Sep some enemy opposition was overcome and several strong points 500 yards west of the river were destroyed. An enemy counter-attack on the left flank was repulsed and 40 Japanese were killed. 2/43 Bn has not yet been able to cross the BUSU. 2/32 Bn has moved up and is now west of the BUREP R mouth.

In the 26 Bde area in the centre there has been no change in the dispositions. 2/24 Bn tried unsuccessfully to cross in rubber boats on afternoon 10 Sep. The boats were swamped by the force of the current.

Higher up the river 2/4 Indep Coy has reached the Kunda bridge (perhaps the one marked at 675549 one inch to one mile series). Patrols of C Coy PIB along the east bank of the BUSU inflicted casualties on an enemy party.

Adv HQ 9 Aust Div opened at 851450 at midday 10 Sep and 2/17 Bn (in divisional reserve) is at 771447.

On night 10/11 Sep, enemy medium artillery and AA shelled the area east of the BUREP R, causing no damage or casualties. There was some further shelling early on morning 11 Sep - also without effect.

7 AUST DIV

On 10 Sep patrols of 2/25 Bn moved to the foothills of the ATZERA Range but no enemy were seen. The battalion was then at YALU and HQ 25 Bde and 2/33 Bn at MUNUM.

During morning 11 Sep D Coy 2/25 Bn made contact with an enemy force in the vicinity of JENYNS and WHITAKERS Plantation, and inflicted 30 casualties. Enemy strength was estimated at 200.

On 10 Sep 2/2 Pnr Bn patrolled down the north bank of the MARKHAM from NARAKAPOR. A patrol from the US Parachute Regt north of CAMP DIDDY, which returned on the afternoon of the same day, saw no sign of the enemy.

Early on 11 Sep, part of 2/4 Fd Regt arrived at YALU.

WALPIT FORCE

Late on 9 Sep an enemy attempt to reinforce MARKHAM Point with troops from LABU 1 was turned back by IIG fire.

During 10 Sep our patrols were active and engaged the enemy positions with rifle grenades and IIG fire. The enemy did not reply.

5 AUST DIV

On 10 Sep despite heavy rain which resulted in flooded tracks, landslides and a quick rise in the FRANCISCO R, 29 Bde and 162 US Regt continued to advance. During this advance the majority of enemy positions were by-passed and many dead and a great deal of equipment were found abandoned, including one 105 mm, three 75 mm and one 37 mm guns.

By evening 10 Sep 162 US Regt held SCOUT RIDGE at 752972 and 745963 and forward positions near the coast at 764973 and 760973. 15 Bn less two coys was at 748965 with B Coy at 740969. C Coy had moved forward to 748992, an advance of more than 2000 yards.

In the central area enemy resistance was quickly overcome and at 0830 hrs 11 Sep B Coy 42 Bn crossed the FRANCISCO R without opposition and moved into the SALAMAUA airfield. The rest of the Bn, at 1930 hrs 10 Sep, was on a line running through NUK NUK from north at 935973 to south at 726965.

A forward company of 47 Bn reached the FRANCISCO at 730989 late on 10 Sep and the remainder of the Bn held the area north and south of KENNEDYS CROSSING.

In the 15 Bde area, north of the FRANCISCO, C Coy 58/59 Bn made a successful attack on an enemy position on 10 Sep and advanced to 715000. An attack by A Coy of this battalion on the enemy at 720986

failed but our troops later repulsed counter-attacks.

Forward dispositions of 2/7 Bn were: A and B Coys 718002, D Coy 716001.

2. SEA - OWN

PT boats operating in VITIAZ STRAITS on night 10/11 Sep sank three barges and damaged one more off BLUCHER Point. It was reported that heavy fire was encountered from two 3 in guns at BLUCHER Point, one two miles south of BLUCHER Point, and two others three miles north of FORTIFICATION Point.

PART II

3. ENEMY OOB - LAND

Captured documents reveal that the following reinforcements of 51 Div were at RABAU:-

102 Regt	472 (28 Aug)
115 Regt	200 (4 Jul)

Of these, some at least arrived at LAE on 3 Sep. Their strength is tentatively estimated at 250. It is possible that a portion of these reinforcements were amongst those who fled from our troops from SINGAUA Plantation.

4. IDENTIFICATIONS

There is slight evidence that the unit "141 Butai" is in fact MAIZURU 2 SNLP.

5. GENERAL

The following quotation is from a report by 1st Lieut KISHI, Norio to the senior medical officer 102 Regt on 28 Aug 43:-

"The total number of the Remaining Unit, together with 413 replacements is 472 men. The unit is stationed at KABAUL. The billeting area is in sanitary condition and the men are self-supporting, supplying themselves from their vegetable garden. Present number of patients from the Replacements is 52 men. Malaria cases are increasing at present."

COMMENT

A Remaining Unit is composed of "Left out of battle" personnel. KABAUL is the staging area for troops leaving RABAU.

Signed at 0415hrs 11 Sep

[Signature]
Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1.

1a/2ile
SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - NO 6

(Information to 2000K/10)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 1" to 1 mile

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

During 9 Sep 2/28 Bn crossed the BUSU at the mouth in the face of some MG and 20 mm fire and by 1830 hrs had established a bridgehead which they are now holding. Heavy rain fell during the night 9/10 Sep. This caused the rivers to rise and made movement on the tracks difficult. The BUSU is now running deep and fast. As a result 2/43 Bn is held up on the east bank about 750406 until a crossing can be effected.

In 26 Bde area, to the north, 2/24 Bn at 713642 is searching for suitable fording places. Bridging equipment is being brought forward and the remainder of the brigade is moving up.

2/4 Ind Coy reached the BUSU about 700509 and continued to move north up the left bank. Patrols from both brigades maintained contact along the east bank of the river.

2/17 Bn (less one coy) has moved to 771448 and is in divisional reserve.

On 9 Sep part of 2/12 Fd Regt effectively engaged enemy strong points.

7 AUST DIV

Advancing from YALU down the MARKHAM VALLEY Rd 2/25 Bn attacked an enemy patrol near WHITAKERS Plantation (588463) on afternoon 10 Sep. No further details are available.

2/33 Bn left GABMATZUNG early on 10 Sep for MUNUM.

Patrols of the US Parachute Regt to TALERANG (191599) and WAWAN (237635) made no contact with the enemy. 3 Bn of this Regt has been withdrawn from its defensive position east of NADZAB and at the road block, and is now concentrated at NADZAB.

WAMPIT FORCE

On 8 Sep B-Coy 24 Bn harassed the enemy ambush position near the mouth of the BUANG R with mortar fire.

On 9 Sep, in the MARKHAM POINT area, active patrolling continued.

5 AUST DIV

Our troops penetrated the defences around SALAMAUA on 10 Sep after a steady advance the previous day. Twice on 9 Sep the enemy troops broke and fled, abandoning equipment, when our forces attacked and more than 200 dead have so far been counted.

On morning 9 Sep in the Coastal Sector opposition at the strong enemy post on SCOUT RIDGE (740955) was overcome by 2 and 3 Bns 162 US Regt and a patrol north along the ridge to 743961 made no contact. EGG KNOLL (733961) and the spur to the east were also occupied by 1 Bn without resistance.

In 15 Bn area successful attacks were made on the same day on the enemy position at 763964 and up SCOUT RIDGE to 748965. The enemy was completely surprised and fled.

In early afternoon 10 Sep the advance was continued. One company of 15 Bn reached the knoll on SCOUT RIDGE at 753973 and then moved NE along the crest. Another company moved from 743967 towards NUK NUK.

In two days, 47 Bn in the centre has advanced NE more than 2000 yards, and A Coy at 730988 is now less than 1000 yards from the SALAMAUA strip. B Coy occupied KENNEDYS CROSSING area with D Coy at 725973. A successful attack on the feature at 720969 on 9 Sep cleared the way for our troops.

North of the FRANCISCO R company attacks by 58/59 Bn were made on 10 Sep at 718985 and 716003, while part of 2/3 Ind Coy moved towards the high ground south of 720008.

The enemy is reported to have withdrawn from the coastal area north of KALOLO on the morning of 9 Sep.

2. ENEMY OOB - LAND

PART II

(a) ESTIMATE OF ENEMY STRENGTH - SALAMAUA-LAE 10 SEP 43

SALAMAUA

Field troops	4470	
Base troops	1450	
		5920

LAE

Field troops	4450	
Base troops	2180	
		6630

Notes:) Reported killed only have been deducted ; the above figures will therefore include an unknown number of casualties from air bombing, shell fire and sickness.

) It is now considered that the remainder of 80 Regt has not arrived at LAE, as was previously reported.

(b) IDENTIFICATIONS

An entry in a diary tends to confirm the arrival of the whole of 238 Regt at LAE about 25 Aug. The commander of this regiment was to arrive there about 22 Aug.

(c) DISPOSITIONS

A preliminary examination of captured documents gives the following dispositions of units, possibly on 30 Jul :-

LAE

30 Fd Pom Pom Coy
2 Coy 50 Fd AA Bn
8 Bty 14 Fd Arty Regt
2 Bty 5 Ind Med Arty Bn (less Detachment at SALAMAUA)

Note : 2 Bty 5 Ind Med Arty Bn is thought to have four 155 mm how, one of which is at SALAMAUA.

MARKHAM VALLEY

8, 10 and 11 Coys 115 Regt.

Note : These companies are known to be much depleted and possibly constitute the force that was stationed at HEATHS and MARKHAM POINT.

FINSCHHAFEN

11 Coy 21 Regt.

S. Anderson

Lt-col
GS 1 Aust Corps

Signed at 0130 hrs 11 Sep

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR SUMMARY NO 1

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - No 5

(Information to 2000K/9)

Ref Maps: 1/25,000 series

4 mile to 1 inch strat series

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

By 1700 hrs 8 Sep, 2/28 Bn of 24 Bde reached the BUSU R near its mouth. Small enemy parties were met during the day but these offered no opposition. By the same time in 26 Bde area to the north, 2/24 Bn also reached the BUSU in the area 7146.

A late message states that 2/28 Bn has crossed the BUSU and that 2/24 Bn is expected to cross during night 9/10 Sep.

The enemy at LAE is using one, possibly two, 155 mm guns to shell our forward landing beaches at the mouth of the BUREP R, near SINGAUA Plantation and at APO fishing village.

Patrols of 2/13 Bn to UKILIM (086396) and the BUKAUA area (0940) found an abandoned Japanese camp with eight tents, two MMGs, a 37 mm gun, supplies and ammunition.

Natives reported that the enemy had been evacuated by barge on 4 Sep, the day of our landing at BULU Plantation.

7 AUST DIV

During 8 Sep extensive patrolling was carried out by the US Parachute Regt but no sign of the enemy was seen. The area covered included CAMP DIDDY to the north, the MARKHAM Valley Road to OLD MUNUM, NARAKAPOR and to a point further down the MARKHAM. There is also a north-south patrol from MUNUM to CAMP DIDDY.

By evening 8 Sep B Coy, PIB had established a standing patrol in the CHIVASING area and reported that the natives were returning to their villages. No contact was made with the enemy.

NOTE: In Jun, natives led a Japanese party to CHIVASING and surprised and killed one of our patrol officers. The natives in the area at that time were under enemy domination.

Part of 2/2 Pnr Bn is now at NARAKAPOR with patrols eastwards to the MARKHAM.

On 9 Sep 2/25 Bn has also moved east from GABMATSUNG Mission and is now established in the area OLD MUNUM - YALU.

Landing of 2/33 Bn was completed on 9 Sep and the Bn is now at GABMATSUNG Mission.

A section of 54 Bty 2/4 Fd Regt is in position at 445547, near the road block on the MARKHAM Valley Road.

WAMPIT Force

The enemy position at MARKHAM Point is still contained by C Coy 24 Bn whose forward positions are at 563433 and 563428 with a platoon 400 yards further east. Patrols are active and the enemy position at 567431 has been engaged with mortar fire.

5 AUST DIV

On 8 Sep A Coy 47 Bn made an unsuccessful attack on the enemy position at 712965. Fourteen Japanese were killed. C Coy occupied an enemy position at 718959 and exploited to 720963.

In the coastal area the eastern end of LOKANU SPUR was captured by A Coy 15 Bn.

On 9 Sep 42 Bn finally drove the enemy from CHARLEY HILL (7295) and occupied the feature shortly before midday.

BENA Force

A patrol which penetrated to the head of the BOGADJIM road at W(0)7566 reported coolies at work under Japanese overseers. About 80 Japanese were seen near the roadhead.

Strong enemy patrols are constantly moving in the foothills north of the RAMU R.

TSILI TSILI Force

A patrol from INTOAP (approximately six miles west of SANGAN) made contact with a BENA Force patrol at ARAU (1Q6377) on 4 Sep. No enemy were seen.

2. AIR - OWN

BARGE SEARCH

On afternoon 9 Sep, nine Mitchells searched for barges from SIO to LANGEMAK Bay. One barge in WALDE Bay was bombed and strafed without result and one barge off REISS Point was strafed and believed set on fire. Buildings at FORTIFICATION Point and native huts at BONGA were strafed.

3. AIR - ENEMY

Early on 8 Sep, six Bettys escorted by five Zekes dropped bombs in the area around the mouth of the BUREP R. There was no damage or casualties.

In the evening, three enemy aircraft bombed the area 0240, but caused no damage.

Signed at 1730 hrs

Handwritten signature
Lt-col
GS 1 Aust Corps

Distribution as for Summary No 1

→ 1A

83-1a-100-1147-5

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - NO 4

(Information to 2000K/8)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series
LAE 1 inch to 1 mile

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

During 7 Sep 26 Bde moved NW along the BUREP R and on 8 Sep swung west at approximately 750480. By 1600 hrs 2/24 Bn was at 720470, with 2/23 Bn at 734477. 2/4 Ind Coy, under command 26 Bde, is moving NW from 748493.

Small parties of enemy were encountered on both banks of the BUREP during the move up the river on 7 Sep.

2/17 Bn (20 Bde) has moved further NW and is now at 812488.

Advancing west along the coast from the BUREP R, elements of 24 Bde are now within a mile of the BUSU. Dispositions of forward Bns at 1600 hrs 8 Sep were 2/28 Bn at 761413 and 2/43 Bn at 770422.

A Section of 2/12 Fd Regt landed at the mouth of the BUREP during night 7/8 Sep.

The first enemy attempt to shell our advancing troops was made at 0830 hrs 8 Sep, when a gun in LAE fired two rounds into the area 8043.

A patrol of 2/13 Bn reached HOPOI air strip on 7 Sep without seeing any enemy. They reported that the strip appeared useable except for tall kunai grass.

7 AUST DIV

On morning 7 Sep HQ 7 Aust Div opened at 410547. Defensive positions covering the NADZAB strip have now been established by the US Parachute Regt. The Regiment is now disposed : 1 Bn to the west, 2 Bn to the north with a detachment forward at MACS CAMP, and 3 Bn to the east, with one company near the block constructed on 7 Sep on the MARKEAN VALLEY Rd. Patrols to the east have reached the line NIKAAPOR - OLD MUNUL without making contact with the enemy.

2/2 Par Bn reached NADZAB during 7 Sep and is now in a position between 1 and 2 Bns of the Parachute Regt.

Air reconnaissance on morning 8 Sep revealed no movement at HEATHS or along the MARKEAN VALLEY Rd to YALU.

Landing of HQ 25 Bde and 2/25 Bn at NADZAB was completed during afternoon 8 Sep.

WAMPIT FORCE

No change. A report has been received that a HMG was firing from HEATHS during night 6/7 Sep and not a heavy gun as previously stated.

5 AUST DIV

The situation is unchanged.

2. AIR - OWN

LAE AREA

On morning 8 Sep, fourteen Liberators and ten Fortresses bombed DIDDYMAN'S and area NW of LAE runway, ten Fortresses and three Marauders bombed CHINATOWN, six Liberators bombed dump and defended area 500 yards NE of JACOBSEN'S and four Marauders bombed WEBB'S. At CHINATOWN large explosions were seen and several buildings were destroyed. Explosions and fires were observed at WEBB'S. Other results were not observed but bombing is reported accurate.

- 2 -

About 1100 hrs 8 Sep, twelve Mitchells bombed and strafed MARKHAM VALLEY Rd from YALU to JACOBSEN. and strafed the TERRACE and gun positions in the vicinity. The bridge near HEATHS was destroyed.

SALAMAUA

Early on 8 Sep, six Bostons bombed and strafed shore and track from LAUPUI PT to one mile north of LOKANU PT. Results were not observed.

PART II

3. ENEMY OOB - LAND

ESTIMATE OF ENEMY STRENGTH SALAMAUA-LAE - 8 SEP 43

<u>SALAMAUA</u>	Fd Troops	4700
	Base Troops	2500
		<u>7200</u>

<u>LAE</u>	Fd Troops	5250
	Base Troops	1850
		<u>7100</u>

Comment : The inclusion of 1 and 2 Bns 28 Regt (1300 men) in the enemy OOB at SALAMAUA, was based on PW information. This has now been proved incorrect, and the total of field troops has been reduced accordingly.

65 BRIGADE

Preliminary examination of a captured document shows that 20-25 men of 65 Bde went by destroyer from RABUL to FINSCHHAFEN on 10 Apr 43 (Statement from Adv LHQ).

4. PERSONALITIES

It is now known that between Jan and Mar 43, Col OKUDA Yoshimori was transferred from HQ Eighth Army Group to 239 Regt 41 Div as regimental commander. He replaced Col OHIRA, Hideo who was appointed Chief of Staff of a Guards Division.

S. Hand
Lt-col
GS

Signed at 2315 hrs

DISTRIBUTION AS FOR SUMMARY No 1

SECRET

1 AUST CORPS DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - No 3

(Information to 2000K/7)

Ref Maps: 1/25,000 series

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

Reports received today show that strong resistance was met when 2/23 Bn attacked the enemy force at the COPRA SHED, SINGAUA Plantation, early on 5 Sep. The enemy fought stubbornly throughout the day and lost at least 30 killed before retreating.

Casualties were inflicted on the enemy rearguard by 2/24 Bn, which by-passed 2/23 Bn and moved along the coast to 802422. A further eight were killed by the standing patrol of 2/23 Bn at the mouth of the BUNGA R.

Late on 6 Sep, one coy of 2/23 Bn and a platoon of 2/4 Indep Coy were at TIKERENG (788435). Latest reported dispositions of other forward troops on 6 Sep were 2/23 Bn (less one coy) at 817424 and 2/17 Bn (which has now reverted under command 20 Bdo) just NW of TALI.

7 AUST DIV

On 6 Sep the occupation of the general area NADZAB - GABMATZUNG - GABSONKEK was completed without contact with the enemy.

During morning 7 Sep, HQ 7 Aust Div completed landing at NADZAB airfield, a block was established across the MARKHAM Valley Road at 444546 and AA defences covering the strip were ready for action.

WAMPIT FORCE

C coy 24 Bn is still containing the enemy at MARKHAM Point. A heavy gun was reported firing from HEATHS in an easterly direction during night 6/7 Sep.

5 AUST DIV

On 6 Sep platoon attacks by 47 Bn on enemy positions at 720967 were unsuccessful. Ten Japanese however were killed. Attacks on 15 Bn positions at 760963 the same day were repulsed.

During night 5/6 Sep and following day our artillery engaged four heavy AA guns on SALAMUA Peninsula. Harassing fire was put down on observed targets and slight enemy shelling was neutralised on 6 Sep.

2. AIR - OWN

LAE area

Early on 7 Sep eight Mitchells bombed and strafed the road YALU - JACOBSENS. Almost all bombs fell on the road between HEATHS and COX CAMP. Nine Marauders dropped 12½ tons of bombs along the western side of LAE runway and on AA positions and dump areas near DIDDYMANS and JACOBSENS. Clouds made accurate bombing and observation difficult. Later twenty-four Liberators bombed the TERRACE.

In the afternoon ten Mitchells bombed and strafed the road NADZAB - MUNUM - YALU - HEATHS. Bombing was not considered accurate but fires were started among native huts at YALU, old MUNUM and at NGASAWAPUM villages.

BOGADJIE area

On morning 7 Sep twelve Vultee Vengeances took off to attack bridges at north end of BOGADJIE - YALU Road. The attack was prevented however by complete cloud cover.

INTERCEPTIONS

At midday 7 Sep fifteen Lightnings intercepted twenty-seven enemy medium bombers escorted by thirty fighters offshore near MOROBE. Three enemy fighters were destroyed without loss to our aircraft. On being attacked the enemy bombers jettisoned their bombs in the sea and flew off NE with the fighters following.

On 7 Sep also, one Kittyhawk intercepted two enemy fighters between LAE and SALAMUA. One of the enemy fighters was destroyed without loss.

3. AIR - ENEMY

Early on night 7/8 Sep an unknown number of enemy bombers raided the Cape KILLERTON - BUNA - Cape ENDALADERE areas. Eleven bombs were dropped. Damage was insignificant.

PART II

4. IDENTIFICATIONS (ref para 4 Summary No 2)

- (a) There are indications that two fresh companies from a Special Naval Landing Party have recently arrived at SALAMAU - possibly morning 5 Sep.
- (b) Documents found on the bodies of Japanese troops killed 6 Sep at SINGAU Plantation show that some members of the following units were present:-

102 Regt 51 Div
115 Regt 51 Div
239 Regt 41 Div

Comment: There has been no previous suggestion that any part of 239 Regt was in the LAE area.

Signed at 2150 hrs

J. Mandelone

Lt-col
GS

Distribution as for Summary No 1

Ref 4(a)

*2 dead Japanese
possessors of post cards posted in
Japan 15 Jul 43 and addressed
to 141 Butai
Tokosuka P.O.*

GI 41
SECRET

1 Aust Corps Daily Intelligence Summary - No 2

(Information to 2000K/6)

Ref Maps : 1/25,000 series

PART I

OPERATIONS

I. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

On 5 Sep 26 Bde continued its move to the west and by 1700 hrs had reached the general line of BUHEM R from the coast at 833423 north to TALI (833455). Bde HQ was established at APO fishing village with Adv HQ 9 Aust Div at ALUKI 1.

At 0030 hrs 6 Sep a standing patrol at the mouth of BUNGA R reported a party of 100 Japanese moving east. This force was attacked by 2/23 Bn near COPRA SHED (821422) at 0700 hrs and, after a brief fight, was forced to withdraw with our troops in pursuit.

On 5 Sep also two companies of 2/13 Bn moved forward to BUARU area (0339) with patrols towards BUHEM R. No enemy were met but natives reported detachments at MUNDAIO (083394) and in the BUKAUA MISSION area (097413).

7 AUST DIV

Since the successful landing of a US Parachute Regt near NADZAB, there has been no enemy activity in the area. The grass on the landing strip has now been burnt off and the strip made serviceable. Transport aircraft began to land about midday 6 Sep and engineer stores for the further development of the strip have been brought in.

From reports from aircraft on reconnaissance and a ground OP it appears that on 5 Sep 2/2 Pnr Bn, which was at KIRKLANDS on night 4/5 Sep, moved down the MARKHAM to SHELDON'S CAMP and to 419528 where crossings were affected. Later it was reported that "several hundred" of our troops were moving towards GABMATZUNG.

WAMPIT FORCE

Late on 5 Sep two platoons of C Coy 24 Bn were containing the enemy force at MARKHAM POINT. Another platoon held the track junction at 563428.

5 AUST DIV

An attack by B Coy 15 Bn on Japanese positions at 751964 on 5 Sep was unsuccessful. Our troops repulsed two enemy attacks on a platoon position at 760963.

2. AIR - OWN

On morning 6 Sep six Fortresses and seventeen Liberators bombed JACOBSEN'S and forty-seven Mitchells bombed and strafed MALAHANG PLANTATION and runway. At JACOBSEN'S one building was destroyed and large fires were started. At MALAHANG smoke and dust prevented observation of results but bombing is reported accurate.

3. AIR - ENEMY

In early afternoon 5 Sep nine twin engined bombers dropped bombs from a high altitude on the landing beach at BULU PLANTATION. There was no damage.

Later three bombs were dropped between BUSO R and ALUKI, and later still twelve bombs on the coastal area. No further details are available.

A convoy moving to BULU PLANTATION during night 5/6 Sep was bombed. There were no hits.

PART II

4. IDENTIFICATIONS

It is now established that some of the enemy troops on SCOUT RIDGE belong to an SMLP - perhaps MAIZURA 2 or BASEBO 5 as these are known to have been at SALAMAU.

5. TACTICS

Japanese land mines have been found in the KOMIATUM area. Sixteen red discs, each one half inch in diameter, were also found in the vicinity. It appears that these were used as "stickers" on trees to indicate location of mines.

E. Mandelone

Lt-col
GS

Signed at 2250 hrs 6 Sep

DISTRIBUTION as for Summary No 1

6(2)
SECRET

1 Aust Corps Daily Intelligence Summary - No 1

(Information received up to 2000K/5)

Ref Maps : 1/25000 series

PART I

OPERATIONS

I. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

Preceded by a bombardment from a force of destroyers, and under the protection of air cover, HQ 9 Aust Div, 20 and 26 Aust Inf Bdes made a landing on two beaches east and west of BULU PLANTATION, on the HUON PENINSULA, early on morning 4 Sep.

The main body, consisting of 20 Bde (less 2/13 Bn) and 26 Bde, landed on the beach immediately east of the BUSO RIVER. 2/13 Bn landed just east of the BULU RIVER. No opposition was met from the shore, but at 0705 hrs three enemy bombers and three fighters attacked the third wave of LCIs, causing some casualties to Allied personnel and damaging two landing craft.

Thirty Japanese who were encountered in BULU PLANTATION fled northwards, abandoning rifles, OWEN guns and TSMGs.

Contact was quickly established by 2/13 Bn with the main body, and 2/15 and 2/17 Bns immediately began to move forward, with 2/15 Bn advancing north towards BUSO village while 2/17 Bn crossed the BUSO RIVER and pushed along the coast.

At 1400 hrs, 26 Bde (less 2/48 Bn) commenced to advance to the west and NW, crossed the BUSO and moved toward SINGAUA PLANTATION.

No enemy were encountered but ALUKI village (882425), to which patrols of 2/24 Bn penetrated, showed signs of recent Japanese occupation.

By 1100 hrs 5 Sep, 2/17 Bn was in the general area a mile to the north and NE of SINGAUA PLANTATION, with 2/24 Bn at 889460. HQ 26 Bde, with 2/23 Bn, moved NW from 910410 at first light on 5 Sep.

Meanwhile, two companies of 2/13 Bn pushed east along the coast from the BULU RIVER, occupied villages at 978408 and in the square 0339, and at 0830 hrs 5 Sep was reported moving towards the BUHEM RIVER.

7 AUST DIV

On afternoon 4 Sep 2/2 Aust Pnr Bn arrived at KIRKLANDS after a two day march NE along the WATUT VALLEY.

A special patrol of 3 Coy PIB, which had crossed the MARKHAM RIVER, reported the north bank between the mouths of the ERAP and IRUMU RIVERS clear of the enemy.

On morning 5 Sep, a Parachute Regt and a detachment of 2/4 Aust Fd Regt made a parachute landing at NADZAB. No further details have been received except that there was no interception by enemy aircraft.

WAMPIT FORCE

An action to contain the enemy in his defensive position at MARKHAM POINT was commenced by C Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn on 4 Sep. Our troops mortared the Japanese position and silenced five MGs with grenades. Known enemy killed were 12. There was an extensive system of booby traps in front of the enemy defences.

5 AUST DIV

Offensive patrolling by 162 US Inf Regt on 4 Sep resulted in 47 Japanese being killed.

Our artillery on 4 Sep laid down concentrations on enemy positions at 713967 and 739953, while enemy guns at 762972 fired 35 rounds into the TALBU BAY area. No damage resulted and the guns were silenced by counter-battery fire.

2. AIR - OWN

RABAU

On night 3/4 Sep, six Catalinas bombed VUNAKANAU, LAKUNAI and RAPOPO airfields. Fires and explosions were seen.

GASATA

Ten Beauforts and three Bostons attacked GASATA airfield 4 Sep. One Beaufort was lost.

CAPE GLOUCESTER

At 0800 hrs 4 Sep and again at 0730 hrs 5 Sep, nine Mitchells bombed and strafed AA positions, personnel and dump areas CAPE GLOUCESTER. Two serviceable aircraft were destroyed on the ground, hits were scored on or near AA positions and bombing is reported accurate in the dump areas. Several fires were started.

LAE AREA

Early on 4 Sep twenty-four Liberators bombed enemy gun positions near WEBBS and it is believed extensive damage was caused. These aircraft also bombed VOCO POINT, a dump area SE of MT LUNAHAN and a bridge over the BUTIBUM RIVER. Fires were started on VOCO POINT and in the dump area and the bridge over the BUTIBUM RIVER was probably destroyed.

Nine Mitchells also attacked HOPOI strip and SINGAUA PLANTATION area. Target areas were thoroughly bombed and strafed, but results were not observed.

Between 1025 and 1030 hrs 5 Sep, seven Bostons laid smoke screens to cover landings by paratroops. These aircraft later strafed LABU I with unobserved results.

On morning 5 Sep sixty Mitchells bombed and strafed selected targets in the MADZAE area and at NARAKAPOR, YALU, GABSONKEK, MAC'S CAMP, SHEP'S CAMP and LABU I. In addition twenty-three Liberators and one Fortress bombed HEATHS PLANTATION and its defences.

INTERCEPTIONS

On morning 4 Sep two enemy fighters were intercepted east of LAE by four Lightnings. One enemy fighter was destroyed and one Lightning was lost.

3. AIR - ENEMY

Three enemy bombers and three fighters attacked our troops during the landing near BULU PLANTATION, at 0705 hrs 4 Sep. Two LCIs were damaged and there were some casualties.

At 1400 hrs 4 Sep, thirty medium bombers and twenty-five to thirty fighters attacked our LSTs off CAPE WARD HUNT. A direct hit with a delayed action bomb, which later burned in the hold, was scored on one LST, while a near miss on a LST blew the stern in. Both vessels were later beached at MOROBE.

These bombers and fighters were intercepted by fifty to fifty-five Allied fighters. In a series of engagements over the HUON GULF nineteen enemy fighters, three medium bombers, one dive bomber and one flying boat were destroyed. Several other aircraft were probably destroyed.

PART II

4. ENEMY COB - LAND

Estimate of enemy strengths as at 4 Sep:

SALAMUA

Field Troops	6000	
Base (A, and		
L of C) Troops	<u>2500</u>	8500

COMMENT:

- (a) There is evidence that reinforcements have reached SALAMAU. Included in the above estimate are the following figures for units thought to have arrived recently:

3 Bn 21 Regt (ex LAE)	650
3 Bn 238 Regt (remainder)	380
1 and 2 Bns 28 Regt (ex RABUL)	<u>1300</u>
	<u>2330</u>

- (b) In compiling this estimate, the number of known enemy killed has been deducted, but no provision has been made for sick or wounded. It is thought that of the total, no more than 6,000 would be effective fighting troops.

LAE

Field Troops	5300	
Base Troops	<u>1870</u>	7170

COMMENT:

It is thought that the bulk of field troops at LAE are as follows:

2 and 3 Bns 80 Regt plus regtl troops	1700
1 and 2 Bns 238 Regt plus regtl troops	<u>1700</u>
	<u>3400</u>

5. IDENTIFICATIONS

An identity disc captured at WESA, probably 12 Aug, belonged to an officer of 79 Regt.

COMMENT:

The three known Regts of 20 Div are 78, 79 and 80 and were thought to be at MADANG in Jun 43.

1 Bn 80 Regt has been identified at SALAMAU, and it is thought that the remainder of this Regt may have arrived at LAE.

Signed at 0210 hrs 6 Sep

S. Henderson

Lt-col
GS

DISTRIBUTION:

5 Aust Div	7
7 Aust Div	7
9 Aust Div	7
11 Aust Div	4
WAMPIT Force	1
NG Force	6
Comdr Task Force 76	1
First Air Task Force	1
NLO Navy BUNA	1
GOC	1
BGS	1
G(O)	1
G(I)	2
G(AIR) ALOS	11
LOS (G)	1
USLOS	1
CCRA	1
CE	1
CSO	1
DA&QMG	1
A - Q	1
BMB	1
War Diary	2
File	1