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

1/5/26
DIVISIONS

11 Australian Division
Adjutant General
Quartermaster General
Branch - Milne Force (11 Aust Div AQ Branch - Milne Force)

September 1942

1/5/26-0023

ORIGINAL

SECRET

- WAR DIARY -

OF

A. Q. BRANCH

HQ MILNE FORCE

FROM 31 August 42 to 30 September 42.

Colonel
A.A. & Q.M.G. Force

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

Unit HQ, MILIE FORCE *Date and Time.—From* 31 August 42 *To* 30 September 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MILIE BAY	1 Sep		TASMAN berthed last fort to be assigned under orders of N.O.I.C.	Appendix '55'
			Heavy rain. Traffic control almost impossible owing to vehicles continually becoming bogged. Tpt posn acute , need	
			more F/D and 6/D vehs. USA 6/D vehs prove much superior to Aust vehs. 2/D vehs useless on present condition of roads.	
			F/D and 6/D vehs available from MT pool to service tps.(32 only) Many parts of road only suitable for one-way traffic. Not	
			sufficient provost to enforce this system or prevent pilfering of supplies en route to dumps. Only 24 provost	
			available.	
" "	2 Sep		Heavy rain during night, with intermittent firing in	
			forward areas. TASMAN arrived but stayed only about one hour and put to	
			sea again owing to approach of two enemy cruisers. DDMS arrived from MORESBY and learned the difficulties	
			existing here. Wounded Jap prisoner was flown to MORESBY for	
			interrogation. Instns sent to all units to construct unit salvage dumps.	
			101 Ord Fd Pk to coordinate the effort.	
" "	3 Sep		Weather conditions are frightful. 7ft. water over	
			FLYING FOX FORD. 2/12 Bn sustained about 19 more casualties this morning.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 218
(adapted.)

W.: 1000 2/42 Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	4 Sep		Shelled again by enemy warships during night.	
			RAAF Sqns report that during a period of six weeks, from a strength of 400 personnel, they had 75 proven cases of malaria.	
			A report on the AASC position was forwarded to NGF by Comd. Milne Force.	Appendix 4
" "	5 Sep		Bde Workshops are overtaxed in recovery work.	
			Vehs are being continually bogged. Efforts were made to recover two Jap tanks , but owing to	
			weather conditions this proved impossible for the present. Owing to the shortage of supplies it became necessary to	
			place all on 1/3 rations. MILNE FORCE R/O 204-220 issued.	Appendix 5
" "	6 Sep		Heavy rain.	
			ANSHUN berthed at pontoon wharf. Hospital ship MANUNDA arrived in the evening. Enemy cruiser entered MILNE BAY and	
			sank ANSHUN at pontoon wharf with gun fire. The enemy turned searchlights on to the MANUNDA but respected the red cross.	
			Considerable quantity of amn, MT, barrels of AA guns and other warlike stores, rations and mail went down in ANSHUN	
			but it is expected that some of this might be salvaged. The following reinfs. and units marched in :- 1 Aust Fd Cash	
			Office, the remainder of HQ Milne Force personnel, HQ 33 AA Bty, 'D' Coy 2/1 Pioneer Bn, 12 AL Sec, 8 ALCU, 293 LAD ,	
			reinforcements 18 Bde Gp and ~~some~~ soldiers general reinforcements.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

W. 1C08 2/42 Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	6 Sep (cont)		18 Bde Gp Wkshops proceeded to Jap tanks to dismantle guns. This work was done under trying conditions - pouring rain,	
			knee deep in mud and sniping by the enemy.	
Milne Bay	7 Sep		During day 182 patients embarked on MANUNDA.	
			2/1 CCS= arrived MILNE BAY.	
			Further rain and road conditions are getting worse.	
			Enemy warships shell No 1 strip.	
			LHQ advises that arrangements have been made to despatch a mobile crane from SYDNEY to MILNE BAY.	
" "	8 Sep		Units are requested to submit recommendations for honours and awards following the recent action in MILNE BAY	Appendix 9
			Request forwarded by DDOS Adv LHQ to DOS requesting that a Mob Ldry and fwd Decn Unit be forwarded to MILNE BAY.	Appendix 9
			Holdings of 23 Fd Amn Depot to be increased by 30 days maintenance stocks by direction of DDOS	Appendix 10
			Battle casualties During the period 27 Aug/7 Sep 42. 24 offrs + 329 O/R's	Appendix 10a.
" "	9 Sep		An urgent request is sent to H.G.F. to despatch 56 miles D8 cable for A A Btys.	
" "	10 Sep		Requested by DDOS Adv LHQ that 5 Aust Div despatch urgently to MILNE BAY further supplies Amn.	Appendix 14

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

W. 1CON 2/42 Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	10 Sep (cont)		Technical troops such as Engrs RAAF AASC have to be used as unloading parties for ships.	
Milne Bay	11 Sep		Urgent request sent to NGF for a shipment of 10000 A/Tk mines.	
" "	12 Sep		10 CCS ~~no~~ admitting approximately 50 patients per day, mostly malaria. ADMS reports the urgent need of a convalescent depot.	
			MILNE FORCE R/O 221-233 issued	Appendix 17
			Report on MT supplies by DADOS, MILNE FORCE . VAN HEEMSKIRK and JAPARA berthed.	Appendix 19 Appendix 54
" "			Test of A/Tk mines recovered from mine fields proved successful. Mines required only cleaning and greasing.	
" "	14 Sep		Weather fine. Evacuated 19 patients to general hospital on VAN HEEMSKIRK.	
			Report by Lt.-Col. Kearns on ADOS personnel MILNE BAY.	Appendix 22
			NGF request the raising and movement to MILNE BAY a sec of BIPOD personnel.	
" "	15 Sep		SS JAPARA sailed with cargo of woollen clothing as salvage , see memo dated 24 Sep	Appendix 24
			SS MULIAMA and SS BABINDA berthed.	Appendix 54

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

W. 1000 2/12 Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	16 Sep		Rain again. Roads are bad and traffic control almost impossible because of insufficient provost available.	
" "	17 Sep		The BABINDA sailed carrying a small cargo of empty petrol drums.	Appendix 55
" "	18 Sep		(a) Weather fine. (b) The supply position improved and the ration scale was increased but not to full ration scale of issue. (c) It was decided that no medical boards will be held in the field on personnel who are expected to recover. Such cases will be evacuated to General Hospital. (d) The VAN HEUTZ arrived and disembarked the 35 and 36 Pursuit Sqns (U.S.) - 2/2 Graves Registration & Enquiry Unit - "A" Hy Bty RAA - 43 reinfts for 7 Aust Inf Bde - 9 reinfts for 18 Aust Inf Bde - 5 for Engrs - 5 for AAMC. The ADMS Dental and DADOS (E) also arrived on this ship. Cargo discharged was strips for aircraft runways, general supplies and petrol. (e) The S.S. HAN YANG berthed and discharged a cargo of general supplies for the RAAF, AMF and USA SOS. (f) The S.S. WEST CACTUS arrived with a cargo of bombs, ammn, petrol and timber.	Appendix 55 Appendix 55 Appendix 55
" "	19 Sep		(a) The Comd Milne Force (following the recent ops at Milne Bay) forwards recommendations for special honours and awards. (b) With a view to expediting the unloading of shipping, and owing to the shortage of suitable vehs it became necessary to withdraw MT from 7 and 18 Aust Inf Bdes.	Appendix 56

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

W. 1000 2/12 Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	19 Sep (Cont)		(c) Admn Instn No. 2 Disembarkation and discharging of cargo, despatched to units setting out the various duties of staff offrs concerning the above.	
			(d) Milne Force R/O 234-254 issued.	Appendix 28
			(e) Admn Instn AQ88 Anti Malaria issued setting out methods to be adopted in individual and collective control of malaria.	Appendix 29
				Appendix 30
" "	20 Sep		(a) Canteen stores were released for general sale but to be sold on a pro rata basis only.	
			(b) The HANG YANG sailed with a cargo of salvage clothing, captured Jap eqpt and personal effects of deceased personnel.	Appendix 24 & 55
			(c) Admn Instn AQ100 Air Mail and Freight Service. This instn, which instructed AASC to post an NCO at No. 1 Strip, to supervise the handling of all air mails and freights, was despatched to all units.	Appendix 34
" "	21 Sep		(a) An application was forwarded to NGF requesting permission to raise a Field Punishment Centre.	
			(b) All vehs from the MT Pool as well as all available unit vehs engaged in unloading ships.	
" "	22 Sep		The canteen supplies, as referred to in the entry for 20 Sep, have become exhausted.	
" "	23 Sep		The VAN HEUTZ sailed with 75 and 76 Sqns RAAF.	
" "	24 Sep		Circular AQ238 Appointments and Promotions issued setting out the special authority granted to the Comd of Milne Force	Appendix 38

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

W. 1094 2/42 — Unit ... Date and Time.—From ... To ...

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	25 Sep		(a) NGF issued an instruction that all women missionaries, half caste girls and small children be temporarily evacuated from N.G.	
			(b) Authority to reorganise the Hygiene Services was forwarded to units. The Div Hygiene Sec to be disbanded and a Hygiene Offr (Lieut) to be appointed to each Bde HQ. Bns to increase their establishment to show a Sjt (Hygiene Inspector).	Appendix 41
			(c) A general report on Ordnance position at MILNE BAY is received from Lt-Col KEARNS.	Appendix 42 & 43
			(d) The S.S. BABINDA berthed and unloaded ammn, rations and timber. The S.S. MALIAMA arrived and assisted in unloading the S.S. BABINDA.	Appendix 55
" "	26 Sep		(a) The DAAG inspected the proposed site for cemetery at 2/1 CCS and instructed 2/2 Graves Registration and Enquiry unit to lay out the cemetery.	
			(b) Capt RUSTON, AACC, was placed in charge of salvage ops of the ANSHUN. Earlier action in this regard was prevented by muddy water caused by the flood rains.	
			(c) The Comd Milne Force forwarded recommendations for Periodical Honours and Awards to HQ NGF.	Appendix 45
			(d) The BEDELLA-ISLANDER and JACOB arrived, and cargoes of barbed wire, petrol, ammn, canteen, ord and engr stores, rations, kerosene, cement and timber, were discharged.	Appendix 55
			(e) The MALIAMA sailed with a cargo of empty petrol drums, salvage clothing, rubber, copra and tin foil.	Appendix 55
			(f) MILNE FORCE R/O 255-273 issued.	Appendix 46

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

M. 1000 2/43 *Unit* ..... *Date and Time.—From* ..... *To* .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	27 Sep		(a) Daylight saving time introduced, all clocks to be advanced one hour as from 0200 hrs.	
			(b) Conference with ANGAU. It was decided to maintain in the ~~two labour camp 1200 natives and to have 200 of these on~~ a roster system visiting their homes, leaving 1000 natives constantly available for work.	
			(c) The BABINDA and BEDELIA sailed without cargo.	
" "	28 Sep		(a) Heavy rain. Resulted in KALOHI CREEK flooding and HAGITA FORD being impassable to all vehs. MAIWARA RIVER is in ~~flood and has slightly overflowed its banks.~~ No native labour available owing to the weather.	
			(b) As no provision had been made to ration (8 days journey) RAAF personnel who sailed on the VAN HEUTZ 23 Sep en route to mainland, rations had to be supplied by MILNE FORCE. A report AQ332 was forwarded to NGF requesting:-	Appendix 49
			(a) Investigation as to why ship's rations, to cover full voyage incl tps to be transported, were not placed on board at port of original embarkation.	
			(b) Debit to appropriate service and/or Shipping Coy in respect of rations provided here.	
			(c) Advice as to future procedure on similar cases. It would appear that to ship supplies for consumption by tps at MILNE BAY on a transport and then to reload portion of such supplies to ration outgoing tps on such transport, was never the intention of the competent authority on the Mainland.	
		(c)	Supplies anti-malaria eqpt held by MILNE FORCE are very short but supplies are being forwarded by air and sea.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

W. 1COM 2/42 *Unit* ..... *Date and Time.—From* ..... *To* .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	29 Sep		Heavy rain throughout day.	
			(a) The QMG visited this area about 21/22 Aug and advised that arrangements would be made for ... (a) All ships bound for MILNE BAY to be loaded to full refrigeration capacity with fresh foods ... (b) The immediate shipment of refrigeration units to MILNE BAY. At this date no fresh vegs or refrigeration units have arrived. Memo AQ333 is despatched to NGF requesting that this matter receive urgent attention.	Appendix 52
			(b) Circular AQ341. Pillaging of rations and cargo despatched to all units requesting all Comd Offrs to take strong action against offenders.	Appendix 50
			(c) S.S. ISLANDER sailed with printing press and rock crusher for PORT MORESBY.	Appendix 55
" "	30 Sep		(a) Heavy rain continued all day. (b) 49 Patients evacuated to the mainland on hospital ship MANUNDA.	

APPX 1

[illegible] FORCE BULLETIN No. 9.

[illegible] 19th July [illegible] 1943.

[illegible]:

1. [illegible] followed by [illegible]. [illegible] one [illegible] troops [illegible] a considerable [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

APPX 2

MILNE FORCE BULLETIN No. 3.

Issued by

MQ MILNE FORCE. 5 Sep 42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 hrs 2 Sep 42:

1. Our troops occupied KB Mission and KABI night 1/2/42. Patrolling was continuously carried out during the night and our patrols had the best of numerous encounters. Reports from observers state that the Jap has lost heavily, and, at a conservative estimate, has had 600 killed at least.

2. Rain has caused the mud to thicken in the forward areas and in places it is 12 inches deep. This had caused us to leave behind at KABI one of our 2 Pr A/Tk Guns which was captured by the Jap and recaptured by us during yesterday's fighting.

3. Captured Jap weapons are being put to good effect by our units and our troops have quickly learnt the mechanism of these weapons.

4. Jap snipers are still hiding in tree tops and trying to lure our troops forward into possible ambushes, but so far have NOT succeeded and are being shot down every time they are met.

5. A party of our troops, while passing through a forward area containing many Jap dead, were fired on by enemy troops who had hidden amongst their own fallen. They were effectively dealt with.

6. Captured Jap equipment is still arriving at Force HQ and, as a result, much valuable information has been obtained.

GENERAL:

7. Once again dangerous rumour-mongers have been at work and last night (1/2 Sep) many wild rumours circulated. As a precautionary measure a general order to "Stand to" was issued. There was, in fact, no enemy action except in the forward areas, nor indication of such action.

8. The dangerous effect of such rumours must be obvious and it is the duty of all ranks to refrain from listening to or passing on any rumour.

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC: NEW GUINEA:

9. Mopping up operations continue in the Milne Bay Area. Our Forces in this Area have the Japanese trapped in the northern portion of the Bay and patrols are engaging small parties of the enemy.

10. There has been increased patrol activity in the Kokoda Area and our troops are proving here that the Australian is a better bushman than the Jap. Allied bombers attacked Lae and dropped 10 tons of bombs, causing fires visible 30 miles away. An enemy camp area at Buna was also attacked by our bombers.

11. Pilot-Officer Turnbull has been reported missing in New Guinea.

12. Sep 5 is to be observed throughout Australia as a National Day of Prayer, being the commencement of the fourth year of war.

MIDDLE EAST:

13. The halt in the Middle East has been broken by Rommel who has attacked our northern flank. Long range fighters yesterday heavily attacked enemy communications in the Middle East. Tobruk was attacked for the second night running.

14. The Germans are battering Stalingrad in a desperate attempt to break through. Russian forces are making strenuous attempts to hold this fresh attack.

15. The Russians are successfully attacking in the Don area.

APPX 3

[illegible] BULLETIN 3 Sep 43

LOCAL ACTIVITIES up to 1400 hrs 3 Sep:

1. Our troops east of KB Mission were attacked by enemy at approximately 2045 hrs 2 Sep. There are no further details of this action but our Mortar fire was successful in driving the enemy off. Our artillery put up a fierce barrage, morning 3 Sep, barrage reported as successful, when our troops were advancing east from KB Mission last opposition.

2. Sightings of enemy vessels reported 1315 hrs 2 Sep approximately off mouth of [illegible] BAY but no confirmation from our Ops that enemy shipping entered the Bay night 2/3 Sep.

3. Our fighting patrols are still meeting with success each time they clash with enemy patrols. This points to the superiority of the bush-craft of our troops as compared with the Japs.

4. Jap tactics employed day 2 Sep and night 2/3 Sep were to harry our troops with rifle fire and grenades while small parties of their troops made their way from our rear and flanks back to enemy main body. Some of these small parties are reported to be short of ammunition and are using our rifles that they have picked up. Other Japs seem to have only hand grenades. Further reports state that the mud and [illegible] going is playing with the feet of the Jap troops and that many of them are now going barefooted.

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC: NEW GUINEA:

5. The Japanese are reported to be making a determined push in the Kokoda area. Allied ground forces are holding strong positions at the entrance to the Kokoda gap. Severe jungle fighting is in progress into which the Japanese have put some of their best jungle troops. There has only been scattered fighting of a guerilla nature in the Milne Bay Area.

AUSTRALIA:

6. A message has been sent to the King by the Prime Minister expressing regret at the death of the Duke of Kent. The ban on the sale of Territbee beef has now been lifted. Parliament will sit again tonight to hear the Treasurer's new Budget.

OVERSEAS:

7. The Russians at Stalingrad are facing a serious threat from the German reign driven in their defence lines. In other parts of the Caucasus and on the Central front the Russians have held numerous German attacks during the last few days. The Battle of Egypt is now in its third day. The first attack by Rommel began early on Monday and fighting still continues. Heavy and light Allied bombers have been pounding Axis transport concentrations. Enemy aircraft raided towns in the South of England last night with small casualties.

8. American papers report that Tojo's resignation from the Japanese War Cabinet may indicate Japan's intention to attack Russia in the near future.

9. In India most parts of the country are now quiet. Only a few disturbances being reported in the Eastern Portion.

COPY

APPX 4

JCL/WB

SECRET

SUBJECT:- ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL & VEHS ASC - MILNE FORCE.

HQ
MILNE FORCE

4 Sep '42.

N.G.F.

1. The strength of ASC personnel with MILNE FORCE at 0900 hrs 4 Sep is:-

	OFFRS	ORs	TOTAL
HQ ASC	6	18	24
35 Aust Coy ASC (detach)	5	166	171
2/3 " " " "	4	246	250
TOTAL -	15	430	445

2. Vehicles. The following vehs are on strength:

	M/C	CARS D.S.	VANS 15 CWT	30 CWT G.S.	3 TON G.S.	3 TON F.W.D.	TOTAL
HQ ASC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 Aust Coy	14	2	5	1	13	12	47
2/3 " "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL -	14	2	5	1	13	12	47

3. Tasks. The tasks of the ASC in this area may be summarised as follows:-

(a) Transportation of all stores (ordnance, engrs, etc) supplies, POL, ammunition, etc., from boatside to respective dumps.
(b) To receive, hold and account for all rations, expense stores and POL delivered for Milne Force.
(c) To maintain supply Depots in zones 1, 2 and 3.
(d) To maintain regular supplies to all units.
(e) Transportation of troops, etc. as required.
(f) General Force MT duties.

All above apply to all forces in area, including RAAF and USA SOS.

4. A brief synopsis of the procedure & division of duties on arrival of a supply ship, follows:-

(a) The berthing place is PONTOON WHARF which consists of a reclaimed area built up on the original spot.
(b) At the edge of the wharf the water is about 10 ft deep (low tide) & then shelves for about 30-40 ft when the sea floor drops suddenly to a depth of approx 32 ft (low tide).
(c) Between the wharf & the deep level are placed locally made pontoons (44 gal drums & decking).
(d) Ships then berth seaward of the pontoons. The water depth on the other side of the ship is about 60 ft (low tide).

(e) All cargo has therefore to be lifted from holds by ship's derricks & landed ON THE PONTOON, not on the wharf as the ship's derricks are not long enough to span the 30-40 ft.
(f) There are no crane facilities on the wharf, so all stores and equipment landed on the pontoons have then to be MANHANDLED to the wharf and on to the M/T.
(g) Once on M/T the stores etc., are taken to various dumps where they again have to be manually unloaded.

5. Some considerations effecting these operations are:-

(a) Necessity to unload cargo quickly and clear the ship. The port detachment can now handle a normal four hatch ship at the rate of 950 tons of mixed cargo per 24 hours.
(b) Usual rain which hampers operations.
(c) Shortage of suitable M/T.
(d) Condition of roads restricting length and increasing time of haul.
(e) The restricted areas available for dumps or storage.

6. In order to cope with these considerations it has been found necessary to create dumps in the immediate vicinity of the wharf and at a later stage lifted from these dumps to other areas. Stores etc have frequently to be handled three or four times before reaching their ultimate destination.

7. The spheres of responsibility are:-

(a) The USA Dock Operating Coy:-

(i) Berth the ship.
(ii) Provide winchmen and stevedores on the ship.

(b) The Aust Army Personnel:-

(i) Unload from ship's slings on the pontoons.
(ii) Move stores etc from Pontoons to wharf.
(iii) Load M/T.
(iv) Drive M/T.
(v) Unload at dumps.
(vi) Distribute to all forces.

8. Up to the present time the necessary working parties have been drawn from the Units of the two Inf Bdes. The number required daily to work a normal four hold ship is a minimum of 450 working in three shifts of 150 each, six hrs on and twelve hrs off. This number is used at the wharf and in addition the following are required:-

Drivers M/T - 150 (working 3 shifts of 50 each)
Unloading Parties- 150 (working 3 shifts of 50 each)

It is therefore clear that when a ship is unloading 700 men are withdrawn from training and/or fighting. This position is impossible. With the existing force, combat troops can NOT be spared for such duties. To maintain the existing force and the proposed increase in personnel and to build up necessary reserves it is apparent that unloading of vessels will needs be practically continuous.

It is also to be borne in mind that ALL STORES incl amm and POL for all services (incl RAAF & USA SOS) are handled by the Army organisation.

9. As indicated in previous signals vehs other than FWD fitted with chains, are useless in this area.

10. A careful survey of the position and the results of the present operations impel the decisions that the following units are

urgently required:-

(a) A base organisation to handle all supplies on ships and to establish base supply depots and at least three zone supply depots.
(b) Each Bde to have its complete Bde Gp Coy ASC.

11. With that end in view the following recommendations are forwarded with a request for their URGENT implementation:-

(a) Existing Units.

(i) PERSONNEL: Additional personnel required:-

	OFFRS	ORs	TOTAL
HQ ASC	-	8	8
25 AUST COY ASC (7 INF BDE)			
HQ Coy	1	36	37
Transport Pl	1	61	62
R.D.I. (to complete)	-	21	21
W/Shop HQ 1 & 2 Secs (to complete)	1	20	21
TOTAL -	3	146	149

2/6 AUST COY ASC (18 INF BDE)

The remaining portion of this Coy (144 all ranks) should be sent forward to join their unit AT ONCE.

(ii) VEHICLES:

Such FWD vehs as are at present on strength will be retained and the following (ALL FWD fitted with chains) additional vehs are required by existing units:-

	LIGHT VEHS (JEEPS)	VANS 1 TON FWD	TASK VEHS 3 TON	WATER CARTS	B/DN VANS	STORES VANS
HQ ASC	3	3	4	1	-	-
25 Aust Coy	1	6	60	4	2	4
TOTAL -	4	9	64	5	2	4

The 2/6 Aust Coy vehs (all Chev FWD type) are at present at CABOOLTURE and should be sent forward with the balance of the personnel recommended in sub para (i) above.

(b) New Unit:

A new Company should be formed as follows to establish base organisation and zone supply depots:-

(i) PERSONNEL:

		OFFRS	ORs
HQ G.T. Coy	A Pln	4	43
Supply Plns	B "	2	49
" "	C "	2	49
Transport Plns	D "	1	61
" "	E "	1	61
" "	F "	1	61
Relief Driver inc	G "		31
" " "	H "		31
" " "	I "		31
Workshop Pln (HQ & 3 secns)	J "	1	61
	TOTAL -	12	478

(b) VEHICLES:

This new unit should be equipped with following vehs (ALL FWD):-

LIGHT VANS (JEEPS)	VANS 1 TON	TASK VEHS 5 TON	WATER CARTS	B/DN VANS	STORES VANS
5	10	110	5	5	5

(c) Field Bakery:

Complete with plant capable of baking for whole force - say a maximum of 15,000 is urgently required. It is understood that such a unit is en route but no definite advice has been received as to expected date of arrival.

(d) Field Butchery:

It is estimated that there are some 6,000 head of edible cattle in the force area and the rate of natural increase is from 60 - 100 per week. A field butchery fully equipped will enable best use to be made of this local meat supply.

The QMG has already taken details of necessary refrigeration space required to handle the meat after killing.

Until the arrival of such storage meat must be distributed and cooked within a very few hours of killing.

12. An endeavour has been made herein to cover fully the subject matter, but it cannot be too strongly stressed that the additional personnel and vehs are urgently required.

Combat troops can NOT be further released from their operational role and existing services are totally inadequate to cope with the job.

13. Any additional troops such as an Inf Bde if sent into this area must be accompanied by their full ASC Coy.

14. It is proposed to return to Aust all two-wheeled drive vehs as soon as shipping space is available.

15. This memo is in duplicate to provide copy for forwarding to higher authority if so desired.

G.A. CLOWES Major-General
COMMANDING MILNE FORCE

War Diary

APPX 5

The information contained in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's or the United States Service.

Serial No. 42.
Nos. 204 - 220.

MILNE FORCE ROUTINE ORDERS.

Part 1.

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL C.A. CLOWES, DSO, MC.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

HQ
MILNE FORCE
AUSTRALIA.

5 Sep 42.

GENERAL STAFF.

NIL.

Col
GS MILNE FORCE.

ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S STAFF.

204. ROUTINE ORDERS.

Milne Force RO's will, in future, be published weekly on Saturday.

205. STATES AND RETURNS.

1. Attention is directed to New Guinea Force Orders Serial 32 No. 427. All Aust Army units of Milne Force will ensure that the States and Returns referred to in the above-quoted orders are compiled accurately and rendered promptly.

2. A very serious view is taken of the failure of many units during recent operations to render Daily Strength States (W.3006) in some cases for four and five successive days.

3. It must be appreciated that early information concerning casualties and effective strengths is vitally necessary, particularly during operations and that W.3006 MUST BE RENDERED.

4. It is further advised that the Daily Strength State is used as a basis for calculating the amount of rations required for the whole of Milne Force. Therefore it is desired that all Allied and RAAF Units forward a strength state each day to HQ Milne Force showing the total number of Officers and other ranks on strength and the number of Officers and other ranks who have been lost to the unit due to wounds, sickness or other causes since the previous day's return.

5. Aust Army units are reminded that Cas Returns W.3010, 3011 or 3012 must be forwarded to Records Liaison Officer, NG Force promptly in the case of battle casualties.

206. RECORDS.

Attention of all Aust Army units is drawn to the fact that all returns, etc., intended for District Records Office should be forwarded to Records Liaison Officer, NG Force.

207. WEARING OF "AUSTRALIA" SHOULDER TITLES.

Attention of all Aust units is directed to NG Force O's No. 412 of 22Aug 42.

208. CLASSIFICIATION OF CMF UNITS AS AIF UNITS. (NG FORCE ORDER No. 424 of 22 Aug 42.)

1. It has been decided that where 75% of the strength of a CMF Unit volunteer for service in the AIF, that Unit shall be classified as an AIF Unit. When this standard of transfer has been reached in the case of any CMF Unit, that Unit will so advise its next higher Formation HQ, which will at once notify HQ NGF, through the normal channel, so that action to amend classification can be taken. No transfers between Units or change of postings or appointments within Units will be effected as a result of change of classification or a Unit of CMF without prior instructions from HQNGF.

2. Members of such CMF Units who are not accepted for AIF and those who do not volunteer for AIF will be withdrawn to depots in the event of the unit being required to proceed overseas, and the members so withdrawn will be replaced by AIF.

209. ENLISTMENT OF PMF & CMF PERSONNEL IN AIF. (NG FORCE ORDER No.423 of 22 Aug 42.)

1. Allotment of Army Numbers. (Ref NGF Orders Serial 30, Para 260 and Serial 31, para 340).

All previous instructions relative to the allotment of Army Numbers to PMF and CMF personnel transferring to AIF are cancelled.

The District of Origin will continue to govern the issue of numbers to such personnel, for example V.13452 Pte Jones T, enlisted CMF in Victoria will receive a VX number, although transfer to AIF may be effected in Australian New Guinea. Pending advice of new numbers, personnel transferred to AIF will continue to use existing numbers in order to prevent any interference with pay and allotments.

Any XP or XK numbers already allotted or assumed will be cancelled. NG L of C Area Records Office will pass Casualty Returns (including those already submitted by Units) to the L of C Area Records Office in the District of Origin. The latter Records Office will advise all concerned of the replacement number allotted through the medium of special Part II Orders.

Numbers will on no account be allotted by Units.

2. The words, "No transfer will be regarded as complete until this action has been finalised" in sub-para 3 (a) of para 260 NGF Orders Serial 30, are cancelled.

The effect of this will be to permit personnel transferring from PMF and CMF to AIF to be regarded as the latter from the date of acceptance, which is completed when the AAF A.200 is signed.

On acceptance personnel may adopt AIF colour patches and titles "Australia".

210. WAR BADGES.

Attention of all units is directed to NGF C No 426 of 22 Aug 42.

211. MALARIA - SUPPRESSIVE TREATMENT.

The suppressive dosage of quinine has been increased to two tablets (10 grains) daily. HQ Milne Force Administrative Instruction No.1. para 14, is amended accordingly.

212. DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

1. Suitable bottles, tins and containers are urgently required for packing and distribution of medical supplies.

2. It is desired that all units collect and forward such containers to 10 CCS as often as possible.

213. PISTOLS REVOLVER .38 S & W.

Any unit having Pistols Revolver .38 S & W of the undermentioned numbers in their possession will withdraw them from issue immediately and advise HQ Milne Force. Instructions will then be issued as to the delivery of the Pistols to Ordnance Workshops.

871521	880134	878770
878552	878980	881492
871235	882196	877586
884907	878610	870027

214. ORDNANCE STORES

1. All indents for Ordnance Stores will be addressed to ADOS Milne Force, and whenever possible handed to the Ordnance WO for delivery to ADOS. If possible, indents will be on form G.997. Ord WO's are attached to :-

HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde.
HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde.
HQ Milne Force. (For units not under or located near Bdes)

2. Three copies of indents are required, the third copy being on plain paper.

215. CENSUS OF WARLIKE STORES AND M.T. VEHICLES.

It is essential that all returns be in the hands of ADOS within 24 hrs in order that action can be taken immediately to make up deficiencies.

216. CHAINS NON-SKID.

Indents should be submitted immediately for chains, non-skid, required by units. Sizes of tyres must be shown.

217. VEHICLES CROSSING RIVER FORDS.

1. Attention is drawn to GRO 297 which instructs that when crossing a ford vehicles will be driven slowly. If there is danger of the fan coming into contact with the water, the fan must be removed from the crankshaft of Ford vehicles. The fan belt must be removed from other makes of vehicles.

2. This instruction is particularly necessary as supply of replacement radiators cannot be kept up.

218. WOOLLEN CLOTHING.

All Greatcoats and SD Uniforms in possession of Units or personnel will be returned at once to 123 POD. Any other surplus clothing will be collected and returned to the Depot.

Serial No. 42/42.

219. CARE OF BOOTS.

Every effort will be made to preserve boots by greasing with dubbin or similar material.

220. CONSERVATION OF COTTON CLOTHING.

In view of limited quantity of cotton clothing available, it is essential that all cotton garments be carefully conserved. Units will give particular attention to this. It is necessary to salvage and wash all shirts, shorts and trousers that can be found.

[signature] Lt-Col.
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE.

NOTICES.

IDENTITY DISCS.

Identity discs, for the undermentioned, have been found and may be had on application to HQ 25 Aust Coy ASC, which is now situated at Junction of Route 1 and Route 7 :-

Q.125087	R.A. HARDCASTLE.
Q.102646	A.E. RUSSELL
N.389827	J. BOYCE.

LOST.

Two boxes belonging to 368 Dental Unit, labelled 55409D, one containing Dental Vulcaniser, the other dental plaster. Lost at disembarkation. Any unit able to locate these articles should advise ADMS Milne Force.

DISTRIBUTION.

Comd	1 Copies
G.	1 "
AQ.	1 "
A.	1 "
Q.	1
DAPM.	1 "
Camp.	1 "
RAE.	3 "
Sigs.	3 "
7 Aust Inf Bde.	4 "
18 Aust Inf Bde.	4 "
AASC.	3 "
Med.	5 "
Ord.	6 "
AADC.	1 "
RAN.	1 "
RAAF.	3 "
USA SOS.	6 "
ANGAU	1 "
HQ NGF (for infn)	1 "
War Diary.	2 "
File.	1 "
Spares.	3 "

Nat Diary

APPX 6

MILNE FORCE INTS BULLETIN

5 Sep '43.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/5:

1. Main Activity:

Our advance East from KB Mission continued a.m. 5 Sep but enemy is reported as resisting strongly. P.M. 5 Sep the enemy positions were attacked by our tps supported by arty and ground strafing from P.40's. As yet there is no report of the result of this action and it may be that the enemy is making a final stand.

2. Patrolling:

Our Patrol at TAUPOTA resumed contact with the Jap rec which had bumped them yesterday - two more Japs were killed. A Jap Supply Dump was located at TAUPOTA this morning. The dump was destroyed.

3. Air:

Our P.40's ground strafed a Jap supply dump and reported white smoke rising from the area just before they left.

4. Enemy Equipment:

It is now noted that some of the enemy are wearing black leather soled boots instead of the rubber soled ones formerly worn.

5. Enemy Tactics:

In yesterday's fighting some of the Japs were armed with cutlasses and grenades.

6. General:

While conducting a burial service yesterday in the vicinity of No. 3 Strip one of our Padres was interrupted by an isolated Jap. The Padre dealt with the Jap and continued with his Service.

7. S.W. PACIFIC & AUSTRALIAN NEWS:

Allied air attacks continued today over New Guinea and the Solomons. In New Guinea Allied medium bombers raided Salamaua all bombs falling in the target area. No fighter opposition was encountered. In the Rabaul area our fighters attacked enemy lines of communication. In raids on the Solomons Allied bombers scored hits on fuel dumps causing large fires and also some flying boats anchored in the harbour were attacked and sunk. Fighting of a guerilla nature continues in the Mili Bay area.

Dr. Evatt reports the uniform taxation plan is now working satisfactorily.

In actions outside the Solomons area American submarines have sunk 1 Japanese cruiser, 2 small freighters and 1 tanker. They have also damaged 5 tankers and 1 light freighter. The Japanese forces which have landed in the South West Solomons are being engaged by U.S. Marines.

8. OVERSEAS:

There has been no news of any fresh enemy advance on the Stalingrad front in the last 15 hours. The Germans are attempting to increase the wedge driven in the Russian defence lines. Their attack has been on a large scale with utter disregard for losses. In the Caucasus the enemy have advanced slightly.

APPX 7

1. [illegible] ... yards east of ... Boys ... point ... yards east of ... on the morning ... Boys then moved through ... of the ... Sec. By 1430 hrs., ... Sqn, the ... were ... to force the enemy to make contact.

2. [illegible] (a) ... [illegible] ... enemy ... destroyed by the aircraft.

(b) At 1530 hrs., ... Sqn ... had been received ... heavy gunfire from vicinity ... Sqn ... flying ... enemy ... ft, but, ... further details ... available.

(c) Three enemy ... were ... damaged ... Sqn ... flying ... down ... enemy ...

3. [illegible] ... Sqn ... destroyed ... enemy ... bombs ... eight grey ... finned cylinders ... by ... Sqn ... these cylinders gave off a white ... when ... bomb ... special ... in ... work on this material.

4. [illegible] ... enemy cruiser off the ... Sqn ... damaged by ... Sqn ...

5. ... Sqn ... attacked rocco unit ... and ... attacked ... Sqn ... enemy ... reported from ... Sqn.

6. ... has been ... to Sqn Ldr. ... Sqn, ... for ... in the ... recently. Also to ... (rank unknown) for ... on enemy convoy ... in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire.

7. 5000 ... of the ... Sqn, ... from the Middle East, ... the ... yesterday. They were given a ... reception, and ... with flowers and ...

8. ... reports ... enemy check in the ... advance on ... but ... by ... heavily bombing ... on my positions. The German corps driven into the ... defences ... been ... to heavy counter attacks. Heavy battles are proceeding on the North West front.

9. ... Sqn ... in the Baltic ... sunk ... by reports ... the district.

10. ... my enemy ... Sqn ... my ... last night, ... has not ... been ... but there were ... on the ... Sqn ... Sqn ... to ... position of ... also.

11. Enemy ... Sqn ... place on the ... Sqn ... might be ... to ... Sqn ... in a ... of ... Sqn.

12. In the Middle East, ... my ... on my ... The ... offensive against ... in this ...

1). Two enemy convoys in the Mediterranean were attacked by the Australian torpedo-carrying aircraft. One 5000 ton merchant vessel, and another damaged.

2). American sky-troops in China have been hitting hard against the Japs. A Japanese Military Headquarters has been destroyed and several junks filled with troops, sunk. Attacks were also made on numerous small river boats, some of which were sunk.

APPX 8

MILITARY FORCE NEWS BULLETIN. 7 Sept. '42.

LOCAL NEWS:

Considerable progress was made by our patrols pushing Eastward yesterday, approximately three miles being covered. Apart from scattered sniping no contact was made with the enemy troops.

Shelling from an enemy cruiser sank the ARAWHA at Pontoon Wharf last night. Our casualties were one killed 17 injured, of whom a second died later.

Durney Field was also shelled but no casualties or damage has been reported. The Hospital ship in the harbor was not attacked.

An amusing sidelight on the capture of an enemy airman by natives is reported from RABAUL. The airman swam ashore and as he carried a revolver the natives were a little perplexed as how to capture him. Eventually they suggested drying his wet clothes for him. To this he agreed but kept his revolver on him. He escaped but after a chase round the coral he was recaptured. The natives stated that he grunted and screamed "just like a pig" so they accordingly treated him as one, tying hands and feet to a long pole and triumphantly handed him over to the "soldier tunbadas."

S.W. PACIFIC:

RABAUL. Allied bombers and fighters were in three raids on RABAUL yesterday. After dropping their bombs they proceeded to strafe grounded aircraft setting several on fire.

MILNE BAY: Our forces with artillery and air support continue to mop up remains of the Japanese forces.

KOKODA: Allied fighters continued to strafe the enemy's communications in this area.

AUSTRALIA.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Curtin, has issued a warning to the public that unless the rush and thoughtless spending ceases, all goods would have to be rationed.

OVERSEAS.

American Flying Fortresses participated in the biggest daylight raid of the war over FRANCE.

STALINGRAD's fate is to be decided to-day. The Germans attacking the city outnumber the Russians two to one and have the added advantage of undoubted air superiority. The defenders are beating off attack after attack and are fighting for the now ruined city house by house. Despite terrific fighting the Germans have not advanced during the last 24 hrs. General Von Bock has been receiving reinforcements from all over Germany and the occupied countries.

In the Middle East the 8th Army is stated to have beaten off several strong enemy counter-attacks.

APPX 9

CONFIDENTIAL

AQ14

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HONOURS & AWARDS.

HQ
MILNE FORCE
8 SEP 1942
SEP '42

1. Following recent successful land and air operations against Japanese forces, the Comd Milne Force desires that all Comds will submit recommendations for honours and for awards in all categories to reach HQ Milne Force not later than 0900 hrs 12 Sep '42.

2. Recommendations will be in accordance with MBI A53 of 31 Mar '42. In case any Comd has not received this MBI, a limited number are available at this HQ.

3. Particular attention is directed to paras 3, 4 & 6 of the above quoted MBI.

4. Ack.

Col
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE

DISTRIBUTION:

As for Milne Force RO
Serial 42 of 5 Sep '42.

WAR DIARY COPIES

TELEPHONE A.P.B.X. 10

Australian Military Forces OS18/702/3

ALLIED LAND FORCES
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA.

Please quote this Number when Replying

Address ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS
8/9/1942

DOS
LHQ

Copies for information to:
DDOS N.G. Force
ADOS Milne Force, Q G(SD)

LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT FOR MILNE FORCE

With reference to your memorandum SM.16672 on above subject, advice was furnished on 5 Sep '42, Memorandum 570, that I Aust Corps Mob Ldry and Fwd Decn Unit was not being sent to New Guinea. The 7 Aust Div Mob Ldry and Fwd Decn Unit is in Port Moresby.

2 In view of this will you please advise when it is expected that plant and personnel will be despatched to Fall River. In a recent memorandum from ADOS, Milne Force, he mentioned that wastage of Cotton Clothing through lack of washing facilities was great and stated that laundry was urgently needed.

In view of the humid conditions at Milne Bay the laundry equipment should include drying plant.

(SHD) Col
DDOS Adv LHQ.

APPX 10a

COPY.

KILLED, WOUNDED AND MISSING 27 AUG/7 SEP 42.

UNIT.	KILLED		D OF W		WOUNDED		MISSING		TOTALS	
	OFF	O/R	OFF	O/R	OFF	O/R	OFF	O/R	OFF	O/R
HQ MILNE FORCE.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
9 Bn.	-	2	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	10
25 Bn.	-	5	-	2	1	6	-	2	1	15
61 Bn.	2	8	1	-	2	14	-	22	5	44
4 Bty A/Tk.	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
9 Bty.	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	4
2/9 Bn.	1	28	-	5	5	79	-	1	6	113
2/10 Bn.	3	32	1	7	1	24	-	1	5	64
2/12 Bn.	2	28	-	5	2	44	-	-	4	77
TOTAL:	10	104	2	19	12	180	-	26	24	329

Alteration since last return is due to units having made a more accurate check.

(SGD) J.W.WILLIS.Major.
DAAG MILNE FORCE.

19/9/42.

WAR DIARY

APPX 11

URGENT

MOST SECRET

ADV LHQ ORD INSTN NO.9

8 Sep 42

Maintenance Stocks for 23 Fd Amn Depot

INTENTION -

The holdings of 23 Fd Amn Depot will be increased by 30 days maintenance stocks of amn for two (2) bde gps.

METHOD -

1. DDOS L of C Adv LHQ will arrange for the immediate despatch of amn to 23 Fd Amn Depot based on attached table (see over). Issue will be made from 12 Fd Amn Depot. Immediate action will be taken to replenish stocks at 12 Fd Amn Depot by issue from 6 Adv Amn Depot and 2 Adv Amn Depot.

2. Markings:

Each package will be marked OO / FRANKSTON together with priority markings.

3. Timings:

Amn will be ready for loading at CAIRNS not later than evening of 9 Sep 42.

4. Inabilities:

Will be advised to DDOS Adv LHQ as early as possible.

5. Security:

The utmost secrecy will be observed in regard to the despatch of this shipment and only those personnel directly concerned will be informed of the matter

(Sgd) H. Hinson Col
DDOS Adv L.H.Q.

Signed at 1725 hrs
8 Sep 42.

[redacted]

AMN TO BE SHIPPED FROM CAIRNS FOR 30 DAYS WUR

FOR ~~X~~ 23 FD AMN DEPOT

Bombs	ML 3" Mor HE	10800	Townsville
Ctges	SAAP .55 A/T	1920	"
"	Sig. 1" J Illum	6200	Sellheim
"	" " " Red	1550	"
"	" " " Green	950	Townsville 294 Sellheim 656
"	QF HE 40 mm AA	3600	Sellheim
"	" HE 3.7" AA	1800	"
"	" 2 pdr AP shot	1800	"
"	" 18 pdr HE	4200	"
"	" 25 pdr filled	7200	"
Shell	" 25 pdr HE	6840	"
"	" " " Smoke	360	"
Ctges	SA Ball. .303" Bdr	777,352	Townsville
"	" " " Btn	1,398,668	Sellheim
"	" " .455 Rev	2,667	"
Grenades	Hand No.36 M	8,000	"
Mines	Contact A/T Mk.11	6,666	Townsville

Please quote this Number when replying

Date

Address

Australian Military Forces

Eastern Command

TELEPHONE—

War Diary

APPX 12

ADMINISTRATION IN THE FIELD.

CIRCULAR No. A.110.

HQ
MILNE FORCE.
9 SEP 42.

GENERAL:

1. Comd Milne Force takes a serious view of the apparent lack of appreciation by HQ and Units of their administrative responsibilities evidenced during recent operations, particularly with regard to the reporting of casualties. The following notes have been prepared for the guidance of offrs responsible for administration and are to be read in conjunction with FSR Vol.1.

REPORTING OF CASUALTIES: (FSR Vol.1. Sec.26 para 2(i) page 50).

2. In the first instance, casualties are reported on Form W.3006 which MUST BE FORWARDED EVERY DAY to Records Liaison Offr NG Force and to HQ Milne Force. Units under command of Bdes should forward the copy for HQ Milne Force through Bde HQ. This State is to be telegraphed (i.e. sent by Sigs message) if necessary.

3. Secondly, Cas returns W.3010, 3011 or 3012 must be forwarded promptly to Records Liaison Offr NG Force.

4. Action to be taken by Fd Ambs and CCS is clearly set out in FSR Vol.1. Sec. 26 pages 53-4, except that offr i/c 2nd Echelon is to be taken to mean Records Liaison Offr NG Force.

CLEARING OF BATTLEFIELD:

5. It is the duty of every unit to clear its own battlefield, which includes the burial of our own and enemy dead.

6. Every offr should be familiar with the regulations contained in FSR Vol.1. App VI. with regard to identification and disposal of the effects of the dead. In the case of our own dead the RED identity disc should be removed before burial or, should the disc be missing, other steps should be taken to positively identify the body. The GREEN disc is on no account to be removed. Paybook and personal effects should also be removed from the body and all such articles handed in to unit HQ.

7. The red identity disc and personal effects should be carefully listed (on W.3190 if available), packed and sent with a copy of the list to Records Liaison Offr NG Force.

8. If burial in a cemetery is NOT practicable, graves are to be adequately marked and the location (map reference) carefully noted and all relevant details forwarded to Records Liaison offr on form W.3314. Isolated graves and small groups of graves are to be avoided if possible.

9. Enemy dead are to be treated in the same manner as our own, every effort being made to identify bodies before burial. Personal effects, means of identification and location of graves are to be forwarded to Records Liaison Offr as above.

10. It is well to remember that prompt and careful execution of the foregoing instructions will mean prompt advice to anxious relatives at home and save them unnecessary grief and pain.

[redacted] Col.
A & QMG MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:
As for Milne Force Wo Circ 42 of 5 Sep 42.

APPX 13

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN. 9 Sep 42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/9.

1. TAUPOTA reports that at 1400 k/8 six Japs were encountered near PUNI PUNI. All were killed without casualty to ourselves. The Japs were equipped with one sword, three grenades, packs and native food and were weak, unshaven and very tired.

2. N.G. Force advises that 3 Jap planes landed at HOOD BAY and the occupants, 6 Japs, moved East in an endeavour to join their forces West of TUFI. ANGAU officers with police are in pursuit of them. The Japs have Tommy guns and ammunition.

3. There are no further reports of Japs in the area of recent fighting and our troops are now resting and re-organising.

S.W. PACIFIC:

4. KOKODA: The Japanese at Kiola, in a series of sharp frontal attacks have driven our men back and are now in contact with our defence positions. Their casualties to date have been conservatively estimated at 1000. The fighting is ~~in~~ continuing over 10 miles of very difficult country from the 1000 ft to the 6000 ft levels. Our Air Force in this area continues to harass enemy troop concentrations and lines of communication from Buna.

5. MILNE BAY: Enemy naval forces shelled our troops at Milne Bay on Sunday and Monday nights.

AUSTRALIA:

6. The Prime Minister, Mr. Curtin, said today that the number of racing, trotting and coursing meetings must be cut down. Manpower cannot be afforded for these sports nor for the army of bookmakers, clerks etc., associated with them. Racing must be cut down in the interests of national defence. The Prime Minister announced tonight that Parliament had approved of regulations which prevent troops from accepting gifts of cash or kind from the public.

OVERSEAS:

7. STALINGRAD: Although the Russians admit enemy penetration of their lines west of the city it is stated that this thrust cannot be regarded as a serious threat to the city. Russia's defence of Stalingrad has headlines in all papers of free countries. Moscow reports that, although fires rage continuously throughout the blackened city, the gallant workers still turn out tanks and munitions in the city's factories.

8. In the Caucausus the Germans are reported to have broken through with heavy casualties.

9. The RAF bombed targets in Western Germany again last night.

10. Flying Fortresses took part in their third successive daylight raid on France yesterday.

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN. 10 Sep 42.

APPX 14

LOCAL NEWSTO 1500 K/10.

1. There is now no enemy activity in MILNE BAY area. Our troops are re-organising and resting.

2. Our recce today covered a wide area to the North and South-East of MILNE BAY. No reports of sightings of enemy ships have been made to date.

3. The presence of unidentified planes 40 miles away in general North-Westerly direction caused a "red" warning to be issued at 1105 hrs today. The planes however turned away from MILNE BAY and the "All Clear" was passed at 1214 hrs.

4. Our artillery will be registering on targets previously selected between 0800 hrs and 1100 hrs 11 Sep.

WAR DIARY

TELEPHONE—

Australian Military Forces

Eastern Command

APPX 15

Please quote this Number when replying

MOST SECRET

URGENT

Address Advanced ~~LHQ~~ LHQ

Date 10 Sep 42.

ADOS
HQ 5 AUST DIV

(Copy for ADOS MILNE FORCE)

I desire to confirm verbal arrangements made on 8 Sep 42 with AQMG and ADOS 5 Aust Div for the urgent despatch of the under-mentioned amn to Milne Force, Fall River.
Amn must be available in Cairns for shipment on 10 Sep.

Bombs HL 3" Mor HE	10,800
Ctges SAAP .55 A/T	1,920
" Signal 1" J Illum	6,200
" " " " Red	1550
" " " " Green	1,000
" QF 40 mm AA HE	3,600
" QF 3.7" AA HE	1,800
" QF 2 pdr AP Shot	1,800
" QF 18 pdr HE	4,200
" QF 25 pdr filled	7,200
Shell Q.F. 25 pdr HE.	6,840
" QF " " Smoke	360
Ctges SA Ball .303" Bdr	777,332
" SA Ball .303" Ctn	1,398,668
" SA Ball .455 Rev	2,667
Grenades Hand No.36 M	8,000
Mines, Contact A/T Mk.11	6,666

2. Action is being taken to replace the above amn by issue from 6 Adv Amn Depot and 2 Adv Amn Depot.

3. At the request of "C" Adv LHQ 2,672 ctges QF 3.7" AA, diverted from Darwin and at present in Cairns will be shipped to Fall River to meet urgent requirements.

Col.
DDOS ADV L.H.Q.

COO 2 Adv Amn Depot will replenish 12 Fd Amn Depot with the following items and will advise date of despatch -

Ctges SAAP .55" A/T	1,920
Bombs ML 3" Mor HE	10,800
Ctges Sig 1" J Illum	6,200
" " " " Red	1,550
" " " " Green	1,000
" Q.F."40 mm AA HE	3,600
" Q.F. 3.7" AA HE	1,800
" Q.F. 2 pdr AP shot	1,800
" " 18 Pdr HE	4,200
" " 25 pdr filled	7,200
Shell QF. 25 pdr H.E.	6,840
" " 25 pdr Smk	360
Ctges SA Ball. .303" Bdr	777,332
" " " .303" Ctn	1,398,668
Grenades Hand No.36M	8,000
Mines Contact A/T Mk.11	4,677

COO 6 Adv Amn Depot will replenish 12 Fd Amn Depot with the following items and advise date of despatch.

Ctges SAAP .55" A/T	958
" SA Ball .455 Rev.	2,667

APPX 16

[illegible] BULLETIN.

11 Sep 42.

LOCAL NEWS:

There have been no active land operations in [illegible] Area in the last few days.

Our [illegible] continue to patrol aways on a wide scale.

S.W. PACIFIC: [illegible]:

The Japanese are outflanked on [illegible] in the Owen Stanley Range and fighting [illegible] in the narrow trail across Yokoda Gap and for a distance of 15 to 20 miles on the Port Moresby side of the Gap. Heavy Japanese infiltration movements are succeeding. In seven weeks from their landing at Gona Mission the Japanese have succeeded half-way and are now 50 miles from Port Moresby.

GENERAL:

Land operations in Egypt are [illegible] but Allied Air forces have been pounding the enemy. Tobruk has had a big raid with Allied heavy bombers.

The RAF was over Kassel in Germany [illegible] last night.

The new "Blenheim" [illegible] bomber has sunk two enemy trawlers.

London had its first night [illegible] this last night, but no bombs were dropped. A correspondent suggests that the enemy will probably start night raids on London again as soon as the long bombers available.

A Turkish report that Rommel has been killed is not believed by British Intelligence.

APPX 17

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

The information contained in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's or the United States Service.

Serial No. 43.
Nos. 221 - 235.

MILNE FORCE ROUTINE ORDERS.

Part 1.

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL C.A. CLOWES, DSO, MC.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

HQ
MILNE FORCE
AUSTRALIA.
12 Sep 42.

GENERAL STAFF.

MIL.

Lt Col.
GS MILNE FORCE.

ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S STAFF.

221. UNIT ROUTINE ORDERS.

All Units will forward one copy of Unit Routine Orders to this HQ for information, commencing from 12 Sep 42.

222. NATIVE LABOUR (Ref HQ Milne Force Circular A.25 of 23 Aug 42)

1. Owing to the present shortage, native labour will be demanded only for the following :-

(a) Operational works.
(b) Road maintanance.
(c) Carrying for outposts and patrols.
(d) Hospital buildings.
(e) Buildings urgently required to house valuable equipment.
(f) Other works which it is considered require priority.

2. Priority will be given in the order shown above.

3. Units will NOT submit demands for labour direct to HQ Milne Force, but will apply to Bde HQ or Head of Service.

4. Comds will be responsible that labour is used only for the purpose for which it is supplied.

5. Units will be responsible for the picking up from and return to the Labour Lines of "boys" allotted to them, and also for their care and protection during working hours.

6. Transport will be provided from the pool if necessary.

223. PAY.

(a) All units are advised that 1 Aust Fd Cash Office is attached to Milne Force and is located at Force HQ.
(b) Requisitions for Cash (WF 123) signed personally by Unit CO, are to be submitted to the Paymaster in duplicate. Specimen of CO's signature is to be forwarded to the Paymaster for record purposes.
(c) All Units holding Advances from any source are to contact Paymaster forthwith.
(d) Acquittances for all advances from Milne Force Paymaster are to bear the Cypher "F/01".
(e) Unit Pay Sergeants and all personnel responsible for Pay matters are to report to Paymaster as soon as possible.
(f) Rates of Pay of all ranks are increased by six-pence per diem from 14/8/42. Action is to be taken to amend paybooks forthwith, quoting LHQ Instruction 92057.

224. VEHICLES CROSSING THE STRIP.

1. Further reports have been received from the RAAF that Army vehicles are still crossing the strip causing considerable damage to the strip itself as well as endangering aircraft and their crews.

2. Under no circumstances will any Army vehicle cross the strip except on a formed road.

3. Comds. of all Units will personally ensure that all drivers of vehicles are warned of the danger of this practice and that any infringement of this order will be treated as a grave offence.

225. TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

Attention of all units is directed to the rapidly increasing traffic congestion on all roads in the area.

It is essential that the number of vehicles on the roads be kept to an absolute minimum. To effect this all Comds will ensure that transport controlled by them is adequately co-ordinated and that non-priority loads are allowed to accumulate so that one vehicle can do the work for which several are being used at present.

All unnecessary trips must be eliminated.

226. TRAFFIC CONTROL.

Commencing 0600 hrs Sunday 13 Sep, one-way traffic for FWD vehs. only will be instituted between Flying Fox Ford and Sector occupied by HQ Milne Force, controlled by Provost, as follows :-

Leaving HQ Between.	Leaving FF Ford Between.
0600 - 0630	0730 - 0800
0900 - 0930	1030 - 1100
1200 - 1230	1330 - 1400
1500 - 1530	1630 - 1700
1800 - 1830	

During these hours, 0600 to 1830 Hrs, all vehicular traffic, including Ambulances, moving anywhere between these points, will conform to this control, and despatch of vehs from start points will be timed to fit in with "open" road times each way.

Road between Flying Fox Ford and HQ Milne Force is impassable for 2-wheel drive vehs. Date will be notified later when road is available for these vehs.

227. UNLOADING PARTIES - SHIPS.

The following instructions will be taken into use as Standing Orders for ship's unloading parties.

(a) Parties will be detailed from Units by this HQ as necessary.
(b) The work will be carried out by shifts of six hours duration.
(c) The men will have twelve hours off duty after a six-hour tour of duty.
(d) Parties will normally be accomodated and fed in the Staging Camp, and will bring with them bedding, messing gear, etc.
(e) A list of Units supplying parties will be forwarded to CASC by this HQ so that rations may be adjusted.
(f) Tour of duty will normally commence at 0600 hrs, 1200 hrs 1800 hrs and 2400 hrs, except that the first party will commence at time of arrival of ship.
(g) Parties will be accompanied by the normal proportion of Officers and NCOs.
(h) The full number detailed must be supplied and casualties will be replaced by Units.
(i) The appropriate unit will be detailed to supply an Officer to be OC Shift who will be responsible for all matters connected with his shift and who will report to the ASC Officer at the wharf at the time of commencement of his tour of duty.

228. TYPEWRITER - 2/5 FD REGT.

Any unit or soldier having possession of a Royal Standard Carriage Typewriter lost from 2/9 Lt AA Workshop at the Factory will immediately return it to 9 Bty 2/5 Fd Regt.

229. AMMUNITION.

(a) All Units MILNE FORCE will forward to this HQ, through the normal channels, by 1200 hrs 15 Sep 42, a return showing the following information :-

AMMUNITION STATE - 0600 hrs 14 Sep 42.

TYPE	QUANTITY (rounds)	CONDITION.

As this information will be the basis on which future requisitions from the mainland are calculated, Units will ensure that returns are obtained by accuarte physical checks, and NOT from previous records.

(b) All Units MILNE FORCE will forward to this HQ, through the normal channels, a return showing daily expenditure of Ammunition. This return is to reach this HQ no later than 1600 hrs daily. NIL Returns are required where applicable.

(c) Immediate steps will be taken to raise ALL Ammunition from ground level, by the use of dunnage, or similar means. Wherever possible, ammunition shelters will be constructed.

230. ACCOMODATION.

Units will not move from one camp location to another, unless permission is first obtained from this HQ.

231. MT.

(a) All Units MILNE FORCE will forward to this HQ, through normal channels, by 1200 hrs 15 Sep 42, the following information, in the manner set out hereunder :-

231. (Continued)

No. of Vehicles on WE at present with Unit.	Vehicle Number.	Type.	Two or FWD.	Fitted with Chains. Yes or No.	Serviceable or US.	With Unit or in Force Pl or any other location.

(b) Attention is directed to HQ MILNE FORCE Administrative Instruction No.1. para 21 of 27 Aug 42. Owing to shortage of vehicles, Units must follow this instruction, otherwise Transport will not be supplied.

232. POSTAL.

All outgoing private mail will, in future, be despatched through FPO situated at HQ Milne Force.

To ensure that a daily service is maintained, all Units are requested to deliver mail to FPO by 1600 hrs daily.

This instruction does not apply to RAF.

233. SPARE PARTS FOR MT VEHICLES, ETC.

1. All spares for MT Vehicles, Armament and small arms will be demanded by Wkshops, LADs and Units from Ord Fd Pks only.

2. The Ordnance Depot issues only to Ord Fd Pks, except that Bde and Unit armourers may submit demands to DADOS for stock necessary to maintain holdings at authorised quantities. Sig. parts may be demanded by 292 LAD or Sigs direct through DADOS.

3. All damaged or worn spare parts which are replaced in vehicles, etc, will be conserved, as Ord Wkshops can repair almost any damaged part. Units will see that these replaced parts are handed over to nearest LAD or Ordnance Wkshop.

4. The importance of this cannot be too strongly stressed, particularly in our present circumstances, as reconditioning of damaged parts is a major source of supply.

Col.
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE.

NOTICES.

SPECTACLES. A pair of spectacles in a case bearing the name QX.1188 D.C.J. Scott have been handed in to this HQ and may be collected by the owner on application to DAAG's office.

PAY-BOOKS.

Found: Pay-books for the undermentioned have been found and may be collected on application, as under :-

Pay-book No.159516 - Q.28699, M.A. Scott, at HQ 11 Aust Fd Amb.
" No.274743 - V.41485, L.A. Allen, at HQ Milne Force.

Lost: Pay-book, number unknown, for the undermentioned, has been lost and if found is to be forwarded to 123 FOD :-

NX.69407 - Pte. W. Lyden.

APPX 18

JAAF FORCE DAILY BULLETIN

No. 18. 18 Sep '42.

S.W. PACIFIC: [illegible] Guinea:

The latest report from Kokoda states our men are holding the enemy advance and the Japanese have made no further progress. The fighting is now for the track to Port Moresby. Casualties have been heavy on both sides. The dense jungle in this area means all fighting must be on foot, even mules being unusable.

AUSTRALIA:

In Parliament, Mr. Brand asked that income tax be exempt for members of the fighting forces actually in contact with the enemy.

OVERSEAS:

The Red Army's loss of three populated places west of the city of Stalingrad represents a serious threat. The Germans are stated to be using anti-aircraft guns against the Russian artillery positions. In the East Caucasus there has been a distinct improvement in the Russian position. Some progress has been made.

The RAF was over Germany again last night. Localities in Western Germany were attacked.

Last Tuesday Russian planes attacked Berlin. This raid has now been confirmed from Moscow.

There were no enemy planes over Britain last night.

The German radio is reported to be trying by all it's propaganda to induce Vichy to declare war on Britain over Madagascar.

LOCAL ITEMS TO 1200 K/18.

TAUPOTA reports another Jap prisoner. This Jap is in a weak condition and it may be some time before he arrived at GILI GILI.

One of our patrols encountered 8 Japs in the general area East of the GAMA R. They fired on the Japs but were NOT successful in killing any.

The presence of an unidentified A/C at 0724 hrs this morning caused a "Red" warning to be issued. No action took place and at 0757 hrs the "All Clear" was given.

Another survivor from the RAAF crash launch has been picked up and is at present in the AMS.

The air force had a good day yesterday. During the afternoon two enemy destroyers were sighted in vicinity TROBRIAND ISLANDS. They were attacked by our bombers and at 1725 K/18 a report was received that one of them had received a direct hit and was burning fiercely and sinking by the stern. A report from early recce this morning stated that a patch of oil 3 miles by 1 mile was observed over the area of the bombing.

Tests carried out yesterday on one of the captured Jap tanks proved that the A/Tk rifle at short range is quite effective as the [illegible]

12/9/42
APPX 19

M.T. SUPPLIES, REPORT ON

1. As instructed it is desired to report that the following Units were visited and inspected : -

(a) 101 Bde Gp Ord. Fd Pk
(b) 18 Bde Ord Fd Pk
(c) 123 F.O.D. - No.1 Sub Depot

2. 101 Bde Gp Ord Fd Pk

(a) Stores M.T. Having discussed this matter with the O.C. Lt.Carey, it was found that this Unit was approx. 20% stocked.

(b) M.T. Vehicles

		Personnel
W.E.T.	3 x 3 Ton Stores Binned 3 x 3 Ton " Unbinned 1 x 30 CWT Water Tank 2 x 15 Cwt Vans G.S. 1 M/Cycle	1 Off. 19 ORs
Vehicles on Strength		Actual
	3 x 3 Ton Stores Binned 3 x 3 Ton " Unbinned 2 x 1 Ton Vans G.S. 1 x 30 Cwt G.S. 1 M/Cycle	1 Off 16 ORs

(c) Operations

This Field Park is only operating in a very minor way but has done valuable work in regard to salvage.

3. 18 Bde Ord Fd Pk

(a) Stores M.T. This Unit appears to be moderately stocked, say 50% requirements, and is operating satisfactorily in conjunction with the 18 Bde Ord W/Shop. Issues are approx. 45 per day and will increase as the Workshop gets under way fully.

(b) M.T. Vehicles

		Personnel
W.E.T.	3 x 3 Ton Stores Binned 3 x 3 Ton " Unbinned 1 x 30 Cwt Water Tank 2 x 15 Cwt Vans G.S. 1 M/Cycle	1 Off. 19 O.Rs
Vehicles on Strength		Actual
	3 x 3 Ton Stores Binned 1 M/Cycle	1 Off. 16 O.Rs

(c) Operations

The matter of operating in the field was discussed with the O.C.(Lt. Wiltshire) and in view of the shortage of M.T. it is considered that if the Fd Pk was fully stocked the M.T. on hand could not cope with the load either at present or when the complete stocks were held.

(d) Accounting

The accounting system was inspected and found to be very simple and reasonably satisfactory. Index Cards were used for stock (Chilwell system). No signal tabs were on hand for P.A.F, Dves in or out.

4. 123 F.O.D. - No.1 Sub Depot

Lt. Munro was interviewed and the Store inspected, and the conclusion was that, if the stocks that are said to be in transit are received within 2 weeks the M.T. Stores position would be quite satisfactory.

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

(a) It is suggested that Lt. Carey be transferred to the Engineering side of Ordnance and that some other Officer be appointed in lieu, to be under the direction of Lt. Wilshire.

(b) Further it is considered necessary that a Provision Officer and Staff be appointed - an officer with knowledge of M.T. provision it is thought, would be most suitable.

As an alternative to (b) the 2 Fd Parks could be merged as far as transport is concerned, and the personnel, say 1 Officer and 21 ORs, could cope with the 2 workshops' demands - any balance of personnel clerks and Storemen could be utilised elsewhere in AAOC Milne Force.

In order that 18 Bde Ord Fd Pk can keep in continual touch with 123 FOD No.1 Sub Depot, it is suggested that 1 x 1 Ton Van G.S. be transferred to them from the 101 Bde Gp Ord Fd Pk.

To facilitate accounting B.108 would be requisitioned for and issued to all units who would demand on Fd Pks for all M.T. requirements.

(Sgd) G.A. Cottman, Capt
12/9/42.

APPX 20

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No. 13.

15 Sep '42.

S.W. PACIFIC: New Guinea:

The enemy drive over the Owen Stanley Range is still being held. In the second day of the Japanese push reports say the enemy have made no further progress. The battle has slackened in the last 24 hrs both sides reorganising for a renewed effort. There is still no serious threat to Port Moresby which is strongly garrisoned.

Allied medium bombers were in two more raids on Buna airfield yesterday. Three grounded aircraft were destroyed and some trucks on the aerodrome were damaged.

Off Normanby Island our bombers have attacked two Japanese destroyers. A direct hit was scored on one which was left sinking, and a near miss on the other which must have damaged it.

OVERSEAS:

Stalingrad still holds out on all fronts. The Russian line has not been broken in any sector. VON BOCK is said to be employing 15 German and Italian divisions together with 1000 aircraft in an endeavour to take the city. A strong Russian army is stated to be moving southwards towards Stalingrad. Whether this army is intended to relieve the city or to cover an Asian withdrawal should the city fall, is not known. An American correspondent states that should VON BOCK fail to take Stalingrad it would constitute a major setback to the Nazi military machine.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1600 K/13:

RAAF report that 6 unidentified bombers were observed from LUSAKAM flying S.W. to West and 1 unidentified bomber flying West at 1403 K today.

The presence of unidentified A/C 20 miles away caused a "Red Warning" to be sounded at 1207 K and as no action resulted the "All Clear" was given at 1215 K.

Our A/C made a recce of SOMERSET IS today.

BUNA Area: The area attacked by our A/C from a base other than MILNE BAY and two fires were caused. In addition it is reported that 17 enemy A/C either Zeros were destroyed yesterday in this area.

The operations carried out in the MILNE area today between 1400 K and 1600 K.

Natives reported to one of our units yesterday that 4 Japs had been seen at WIOU heading for KUROM. The Japs appeared to be unarmed. Our patrols are warning them.

APPX 21

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No. 14.

14 Sep '42.

S.W. PACIFIC:

North Western Sector: Recce activities only.

North Eastern Sector: New Guinea.

Action in the Owen Stanley Range has been confined to patrol activity. Our troops ambushed an enemy patrol killing 20 of the Japanese. The enemy have paused to build up their supply lines from Kokoda and Buna. The check in the Japanese advance has been due to supplies. The heaviest weapon he has is a 4" mortar which together with a light field gun firing a 1½ lb shell has been moved through the Gap and is being used against our troops. His main problem is ammunition to feed these weapons. It must be remembered, however, that the Japs have a remarkable knack of keeping up supplies under the most difficult conditions. Japanese coolie labour is said to be employed in cutting a wide mule path across the Kokoda Gap.

Allied heavy, medium and attack bombers, escorted by fighters, yesterday launched a heavy attack on Buna Airfield to prevent the Japanese using it to support their troops in the Kokoda fight. In the action 86 tons of bombs were dropped on aerodromes and runways. After dropping their bombs the planes strafed the area heavily seven times using 28,000 rounds of cannon and machine gun ammunition. There was no attempt at interception and all anti-aircraft fire was silenced. Seventeen planes were destroyed on the ground and large fires started in fuel and supply dumps surrounding the aerodrome.

Japanese naval forces shelled American positions on GUADALCANAL on Friday night.

AUSTRALIA:

The A.M.P. Society has informed the Prime Minister of its intention to contribute £500,000 per month towards the Austerity Campaign Loan.

OVERSEAS:

Stalingrad's immediate danger now lies to the southwest the threat from the west having been eliminated. Fresh reserves are reported to be reaching the German forces every day. There has been a new attack by the Russians on the Leningrad front. The German forces attacking the Grozny oilfields have received a setback.

Air activity continues in the Middle East. The Axis supply base at Tobruk is being continually attacked by Allied bombers. Mersa Matruh has had heavy raids on its railway yards. Enemy shipping in Suda Bay (Crete) has also been bombed.

The British Island of Barbados in the West Indies has had its first taste of the war. An Axis submarine came to the surface in Carlisle Bay in full view of the people on the water front and fired five torpedoes in 20 minutes at shipping in the harbour. The submarine was subjected to shell fire from the shore batteries.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/14:

Our A/C continue their daily search of sea lanes and although several sightings have been reported around BOUGAINVILLE and NEW BRITAIN there are no signs of enemy shipping in the areas adjacent to MILNE BAY today.

DOGURA det reports a party of 9 JAPS with only one rifle between

(OVER)

there and [illegible]. Presumably these JAP are further stragglers endeavouring to get across to [illegible].

A report that JAP survivors in one lifeboat and one barge, some of the survivors being wounded has been received from one of our spotting stations in the North. These survivors may be from the JAP destroyer sunk on Friday last.

There are no further reports of JAP activity in this area to date.

WAR DIARY COPIES

APPX 22

TELEPHONE—FO 455.

Australian Military Forces—Eastern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

[ ] [ ] [ ]

~~Roseberry~~
~~Parramatta~~ N.S.W.

H.Q. Milne Force
AUSTRALIA.

14 SEPT 42.

DDOS
NG FORCE

PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your signal OS.185 of 13 Sep 42.

2. A Statement was forwarded on 8/9/42 setting out details of personnel in all AAOC Units except 241 LAD and AAOC personnel attached to Bdes and Units. The outstanding details are being collected and will be forwarded immediately.

3. When Col. Speckman was here, he asked for a statement of deficiencies as against W.E. for all Units. These statements in respect of 101 Ind Bde Gp Ord Wkshop, 101 Ind Bde Gp Ord Fd Pk, 18 Bde Sec Ord Wkshop, 18 Bde Sec O.F.P. and Det. 2/6 Aust Hy A.A. Bty Wkshop Sec are attached.

4. No establishments have been received in relation to 123 F.O.D. and 23 F.A.D., but the following personnel of whose coming I have been advised have not yet arrived :

Advice	For	Off	ORs
Adv. LHQ. Ord. Instn No.6	123 F.O.D.	3	50
Adv. LHQ Ord Instn NO.7	23 F.A.D.	-	20
Adv. LHQ Ord. Instn No.6	123 F.O.D.	(Balance of provision (personnel for one Div.	

The Officer mentioned in Instn No.7(Lieut.C.P. Warren) has arrived but not the 20 ORs.

5. At present both Depots are seriously understaffed and unable to function satisfactorily. The promised personnel who have not yet arrived are urgently needed and only represent ~~minimum~~ requirements in view of difficult conditions obtaining here.

6. Apart from shortages of personnel, I am prevented from turning in satisfactory results by lack of transport. I have no transport whatever for 123 FOD, 23 FAD, DADOS(O), DADOS(L), Bde Ord. W.Os or myself. What we can get from the transport pool here is negligible compared with our requirements, and Wkshop Units are too short of suitable vehicles to allow any to be withdrawn. This matter was discussed with Col. Speckman during his visit, and my minimum requirements were given as

6 F.W.D. 3 ton Lorries
2 JEEPS

(F.J. KEARNS) LT.COL
ADOS MILNE FORCE

APPX 23

AIR FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No.[illegible]

15 SEP 42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/15.

Our WEDAU det reports that natives stated today a party of 10 Japs were seen in the vicinity of CAPE PRERE and LARONIA. Two of the Japs were armed with rifles. Our det has taken suitable measures.

A message was received from TAUFOTA today stating that the natives there had seen Japs in an outrigger canoe one mile west from the shore. Our P40's did NOT locate the Japs in a subsequent search. This det later reported an encounter with nine Japs between TAUFOTA AND PUNI PUNI and 7 Japs were killed.

There are No other reports of enemy activities in the MILNE BAY area.

S.W. PACIFIC:

N.W. SECTOR: Allied aircraft have attacked enemy ships and aerodromes in this area.

N.E. SECTOR: New Guinea: There has been patrol activity only at Kokoda, the Japs being up against the problem of keeping up supplies across the Owen Stanley Range.

Allied bombers dropped 17 tons of bombs at Lae yesterday, scoring hits on at least two enemy bombers on the ground. SALAMAU was also attacked.

First hand information of the fighting in the Milne Bay area was given by the first wounded who have arrived by hospital ship in an Australian port. The Japs were described as having been dressed in green with their faces painted green.

OVERSEAS:

The Russians have been forced to give ground at Stalingrad, but the gallant defence of the city continues. South-west of the city over 30 Panzer attacks have been repulsed. East of Leningrad the Red Army has gained some ground. Russian bombers attacked Hungary again last night.

The RAF bombed targets on the NW coast of Germany last night.

There is no further news of the British occupation of MADAGASCAR. British troops are covering the whole of the island and suppressing resistance.

APPX 24

TELEPHONE—

Australian Military Forces
Eastern Command

Please quote this Number when replying
H.Q. [illegible]
AUSTRALIA

Address
Date 16 SEP 42.

ADOS
QUEENSLAND L of C AREA

(Copies to N.O. PORCE)
(Har Diary (2) ✓)

SALVAGE OF WOOLLEN CLOTHING AND TYRES

1. Herewith are copies of Manifests showing salvaged materials being returned to you. The Stores are addressed ADOS Q'land L of C Area. I am unable to ascertain, usually, whether the ships are going to Brisbane or Townsville, consequently I did not know which R.S.D. to address them to. Will you please advise as quickly as possible how you would like these returned stores to be addressed, as further large quantities are to be sent.

2. S.D. Uniforms and Greatcoats are being returned as they are useless here and in this climate become mouldy.

3. Included among the clothing listed are a considerable number of tyres, worn and new, which are of unsuitable type for this Area.

4. It is the intention to organise an R.S.D. with a view to facilitating the return of salvaged stores including clothing, tyres, cartridge cases, ammunition containers and produce of various kinds.

5. It is recorded that following have been shipped : -

S.S. Japara	-	Clothing	2800 lbs
S.S. Han Yang	-	Clothing & Tyres	21,000 lbs
		Clothing	400 lbs

6.

6. The clothing has not been shipped in a satisfactory condition. Much of it was wet when collected and opportunity was taken to dry it and get it on board ship during a dry spell. Packing cases or hessian were not available, so the garments have been consigned in bundles of ten. They were going mouldy where they were, no accomsodation was available for storage, and the dry spell could not be depended on to last. The condition of this clothing may not be satisfactory when it arrives, but it would have been a complete loss if not shipped at the time. Much of it was salvaged from the mud.

(F.J. KEARNS) LT.COL
ADOS MILNE FORCE

APPX 25

[illegible] H.Q. 2 Lab.

15 Sep '42.

[illegible] H.Q. TO 1500 K/16:

1. The only enemy vessels reported by A/C patrols today are two sailboats sailing for BUNA. Presumably these vessels come from [illegible].

2. Yesterday an AIRCAU patrol consisting of 1 offr, 5 native policemen and 15 native carriers set out for AMIOMA. On the way they encountered small parties of JAPS and attacked them. One of the native policemen was wounded in the arm. The JAPS fled to the bush. Later in the day one of our patrols shot a JAP offr at K.8.

3. TAUPOTA det is still encountering small parties of JAPS trying to make their way West along the coast. Patrols from the det are searching our and dealing effectively with these parties.

4. Apart from the above incidents the situation at MILNE BAY is quiet.

5. OVERSEAS:- Stalingrad still holds out despite renewed German attacks. A German attempt to cross the Volga in outboard motor-boats was repulsed. Fighting in the Caucasus and on the Northern front was in favour of the Red Army.

6. British bombers attacked a harbour town in Germany last night.

7. A daring sea borne attack on the Axis port of Tobruk was made by Allied troops with Naval and Air support. The raid succeeded in penetrating enemy positions and inflicting casualties. Some casualties were suffered by our troops but these were to be expected.

8. S.W. PACIFIC: - New Guinea: There has been little change in the position on the Owen Stanley Range in the last 24 hrs. Both sides are preparing for a big decisive battle and fighting has been confined to patrol activity only. Allied medium bombers yesterday attacked two Japanese cargo ships.

APPX 26

HILA FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO. 17.

17 Sep 43.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/17.

One of our patrols yesterday at LILINGA sighted three JAPS. Shots were exchanged without any casualties to either side and the JAPS took to the bush.

Scattered patrol engagements are reported from TAUPOTA and WEDAU. TAUPOTA states that, as a counter to the JAPS avoiding them, they are putting out small patrols on the tracks leading past our main positions, and are having some success in catching small bodies of JAPS unawares. WEDAU yesterday met up with a party of 15 JAPS who had managed to slip past TAUPOTA. In the skirmish which followed 4 JAPS were killed.

Our AIR are searching out the JAPS on GOODENOUGH ISLAND and whenever enemy troops are sighted they are well strafed.

Sighting of enemy vessels in the seaways approaching MILNE BAY are reported as NIL to 1200 K/17.

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC.

For the third consecutive day bombers smashed JAP shipping in the SWP. Allied planes damaged two more JAPANESE ships, one at RABAUL and the other off SANTA ISABEL 300 miles off AUSTRALIA.

SOLOMON ISLANDS.

Reinforced JAPANESE forces launched a further offensive for the recapture of the SOLOMON ISLANDS.

OVERSEAS: Middle East:

USA bombers raided SUDA BAY (CRETE) on Monday.

Russia: Soviet defence forces hurled back further attacks on STALINGRAD. Two direct Russian counter attacks beat back spear-heads of NAZI thrusts and wiped out advancing forces. Fresh tank assaults have been launched west of STALINGRAD.

In the CAUCASUS the Russians are fighting on nearly equal terms and in some places have battered the Germans.

On Monday night WILHELMSHAVEN was bombed by the RAF. Fires were seen for many miles.

Eight radio stations were off the air in Germany and German occupied territory on Monday night. It is believed to be the result of British bombing.

APPX 27.

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO. 18.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/18.

18 SEP 42.

Yesterday a Coy from one of our Bns proceeded to AHIOMA and salvaged a considerable quantity of stores. Quite an amount of the stores belonged to ANGAU but some JAP stuff was brought back.

Another JAP barge was towed to GILI GILI late yesterday afternoon. These JAP barges will be of considerable value to our forces for use on the waterfront.

TAUPOTA is still engaged in scattered encounters with JAPS who are working their way westwards along the coast. On night of 16 Sep nine JAPS were discovered in TAUPOTA GUEST HOUSE and one was killed. Later in the night two more were killed in a further encounter.

RAAF is maintaining almost continuous patrols of seaways and today's report is quoted as NIL sightings.

On 15 Sep a party of JAPS seen in the AHIOMA area were wearing Australian steel helmets and two killed were wearing Australian shorts.

PORT MORESBY:

Heavy fighting has commenced in the Owen Stanley Ranges. Heavy pressure is being exerted by the enemy fifty miles from PORT MORESBY. The Japanese are reported to have brought light artillery across the range and are using it against our troops. The Australians are adopting the enemy's system of infiltration to get behind the Jap lines.

OVERSEAS:

Heavy fighting is still in progress on NE front at Stalingrad. The Red forces appear to be holding the enemy at present. Axis losses in this Area are stated to be very heavy.

American aircraft have raided shipping at KISKA in the ALEUTIAN ISLANDS with good results.

RAF attacked targets in the Rhineland last night.

A few German raiders were over EAST ANGLIA last night. Some bombs were dropped. Our night fighters were in action.

APPX 28

DISEMBARKATION AND DISCHARGING OF CARGO - MILNE BAY.

ADMIN INSTN No.2.

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

SEP 42.

1. The following instructions with regard to the handling of and responsibility for personnel and stores of all categories arriving by sea at MILNE BAY, are issued for the guidance of the Officers concorned and are intended to promote intelligent co-operation which alone can achieve maximum efficiency.

2. All vessels arriving at MILNE BAY remain at all times under Comd HOIC for movement and berthing.

3. On berthing, discharge of personnel and cargo is responsibility of USA SOS Port Comd (under Comd Major L.V. MILLER USA SOS), who will be in charge of Port area to include all jetties and roads immediately adjacent thereto, subject, however, to overiding tactical control of whole area by Comd of combat troops in that area.

4. USA SOS Port Detachment will provide all necessary personnel to berth ships (in conjunction with HOIC) and work hatches on shipboard.

5. MILNE FORCE HQ will supply such working parties as may be required by Major MILLER to clear cargo from pontoons, wharfs etc to M/T.

6. DAAG HQ MILNE FORCE (Major WILLIS) will arrange for all working parties as requested by Port Detachment. Such working parties will contain usual proportion of officers and NCO's and officer in charge each working party will report to Major MILLER or his representative at wharf on commencement of shift for instructions. All working parties will remain under control Port Detachment whilst employed on wharf.

7. Working parties will rest at Staging Camp and DAQMG FORCE HQ (Major BAILEY) will be responsible for :-

(a) Transport from unit lines to Camp.
(b) Transport from Camp to Wharf and return.
(c) Rationing at Camp.

8. When personnel are being disembarked DAAG HQ MILNE FORCE will arrange with Port Detachment order and time of disembarkation. On landing troops will be assembled at Staging Camp.

9. DAAG will be responsible for control and rationing of such tps at Staging Camp and subsequent dispersal to units.

10. DAQMG will be responsible for :-

(a) Adequate M/T and drivers to maintain continuous service from wharf to dumps. This will be arranged with CASC.

In this connection close liaison must be kept with Port Detachment to prevent hold-ups in discharging owing to insufficient vehs being available at wharf.

11. Following services will have responsible officer report to CASC or his representative at wharf on arrival each ship. This officer will, under direction CASC, provide necessary conductors from own service to travel with loads to respective dumps :-

USA SOS
AASC
ORDNANCE
ENGRS
SIGS
RAAF
CANTEENS SERVICE

When special eqpt such as arty is being unloaded CASC will call on service concerned for liaison officer.

12. Sites for dumps will be selected by CASC in conjunction with representative of service concerned.

13. Each service will provide necessary fatigue party (under Comd responsible officer) to maintain constant and adequate unloading party at service dump. All stores delivered to dumps will be 'tallied' on arrival. Heads of services will be held personally responsible for any delay to M/T due to inefficient or dilatory unloading at dumps.

14. DAQMG will be responsible for the general co-ordination of all parts hereof.

15. Advice has been received from LHQ that arrangements have been made for all ships arriving at this port which have refrigerated space, to be loaded to capacity with fresh meat, vegetables, fruit, etc. Immediately on arrival of each ship, CASC or his representative will ascertain from Chief Officer what of such stores are available either directly shipped to supply officer or as ships stores. Ships should only leave this port with sufficient supplies of fresh food to enable them to reach home port.

CASC will arrange to take over all such surplus fresh stores and provide ship with necessary acquittance.

On receipt of stores CASC will arrange equitable distribution to ALL tps MILNE FORCE.

The practice of individual Comds and their staffs approaching ship's officers and making individual arrangements for the taking over of such stores will cease forthwith.

Major MILLER may deal direct with ship's officers, or others, on acquisition of ship's chandlery etc required by Port Detachment.

16. Only officers on FORCE HQ of or Port Detachment USA SOS or those officers and OR's on duty as detailed pursuant hereto will be permitted to board any ship or remain on wharves during unloading operations.

All other personnel must NOT attempt to board any ship or loiter on the wharves or their approaches.

DAPM and Prov Coy have instructions to take disciplinary action against any offr or OR disobeying this instn.

Col.
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:

As for Milne Force Routine Orders Serial No.42.

HPPY 29

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

The information contained in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's or the United States Service.

Serial No. 44.
Nos. 234 - 254

MILNE FORCE ROUTINE ORDERS.
Part 1.
BY
MAJOR-GENERAL C.A. CLOWES, DSO, MC.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

HQ
MILNE FORCE
AUSTRALIA.

19 Sep 42.

GENERAL STAFF.

NIL.

Col.
GS MILNE FORCE.

ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S STAFF.

234. APPLICATION OF MILNE FORCE ROUTINE ORDERS.

It is desired by Commander, Milne Force, that Commanders of RAAF and Allied Units of Milne Force apply Milne Force Routine Orders to troops under their command, except where their application is expressly limited.

235. TROOPS NOT ON DUTY IN FORWARD AREAS.

It has been brought to notice that personnel of working parties and others when NOT on duty are in the habit of wandering about in the neighbourhood of defences on the waterfront and on the wharves and roads adjacent thereto.

This practice is to cease forthwith. Units manning defences will be responsible for policing this instruction.

Working parties NOT on duty will be kept under control in the Staging Camp.

236. "X" LIST.

For the present, Aust Army personnel admitted to Fd Ambs and CCS's will NOT be transferred to "X" List.

Personnel will be transferred to "X" List on medical grounds only if evacuated from Milne Bay.

Nominal Roll of personnel evacuated will be forwarded to Units by this HQ.

Attention is directed to MBI A.24 of 26 Feb 42, para 12 (b) with regard to transfer of Offrs to RSL when posted to "X" List.

237. BATHING IN WATER SUPPLY.

It has been brought to notice that, despite a "Bathing Strictly Prohibited" sign, numbers of troops are in the habit of bathing in pools of the KALOBI CREEK, in the vicinity of map ref GILI GILI 989002 and 987004. The water from these pools flows to the points from which the main supply of drinking water for the Force is drawn.

237. BATHING IN WATER SUPPLY (Continued)

This practice will cease forthwith and all Comds will take the necessary steps to ensure that troops are warned that severe disciplinary action will follow any breach of this order.

The substance of this order will be repeated in all Unit R/Os on at least two occasions.

238. TAXATION. (CPM First Aust Army ICP/148/97 of 11 SEP 42)

It has been advised by Chief Paymaster LHQ that Taxation Deductions entered in paybooks of personnel serving in New Guinea should be deleted as from date of commencement, 14 Aug 42. A schedule of such deletions, under District of Enlistment Readings, is to be forwarded to Paymaster Milne Force by 26/9/42.

This Order will apply to Aust Army Units only.

239. PAY STAFF.

All members of AAPC attached to Units of Milne Force, and Unit personnel carrying out Pay duties will forward immediately to Paymaster Milne Force the following information -

Army No. Name (In full)
Rank (Whether Acting or Substantive) Date of last promotion
Period acting as Pay Sgt Experience prior to enlistment.

Nil Returns will be submitted where applicable.

This Order will apply to Aust Army Units only.

240. IDENTITY DISCS.

It has been brought to notice that a number of personnel are NOT wearing identity discs.

All Aust Army units will ensure that all personnel are issued with identity discs and that frequent checks are made on pay, etc parades to ensure that they are worn in the regulation manner.

Disciplinary action will be taken against personnel losing or failing to wear discs.

241. TROPICAL TYPHUS.

It has been ascertained that a lareal mite, about the size of a pins head; which breeds in decaying leaves, coconuts, grasses and other dead vegetation, conveys Tropical Typhus to man.

In its effect on the human body this disease resembles Typhoid Fever.

All troops are to be warned against using coconut leaves and grasses for bedding and all camp sites are to be cleared as far as possible of decaying undergrowth, coconuts, etc.

242. VACCINATIONS AND INNOCULATIONS.

A return is required of all ranks from all Aust Army Units as under :-

(a) Numbers who have NOT received injections of TAB Vaccine and Tetanus Toxoid since 31 March 1942.
(b) Numbers NOT vaccinated since 31 Sep 1939.
(c) Numbers not yet Blood Grouped.

242. VACCINATIONS AND INNOCULATIONS (Continued)

The return will be consolidated by Bdes and Heads of Services and is to reach this HQ on or before 26 Sep 42.

243. POSTAL.

Mail received for deceased personnel will be parcelled, a certificate stating that member is deceased and signed by a responsible Officer attached and returned to 68 FPO.

244. EQUIPMENT OF CASUALTIES EVACUATED TO MEDICAL UNITS.

Disposal of equipment of casualties evacuated to medical units will be as follows :-

(a) At RAP: Ammn of all types, including Grenades, will be collected.

(b) At MEDICAL UNIT: All articles on issue, except clothing, personal necessaries and tents mosquito, will be collected and returned to Ordnance, except that either kit bag, pack or haversack will be left with the soldier to hold his belongings.

It is essential that each casualty be accompanied by a serviceable tent mosquito.

Units will NOT withdraw any articles from casualties except as above.

Steel helmet and respirator will remain with the casualty and will NOT be withdrawn.

245. AIR TRAVEL - SERVICE AIRCRAFT.

Applications for passage by Service Aircraft will be forwarded to HQ Milne Force in duplicate. Applications will indicate rank and name of member and reason air passage is required.

Priorities will be decided by this HQ's and units will be notified of allotment of passages as soon as possible.

NO MEMBER will be permitted to travel unless in possession of a movement order.

This Order will NOT apply to Air Force personnel.

246. PETROL, OIL SUPPLIES.

Units will draw supplies of POL from petrol point situated at the entrance to Route No.8 west of Lever Bros factory. The practice of drivers of vehicles helping themselves to petrol from any convenient dump, must cease forthwith.

Units will collect empty 4-gallon drums within their areas and deliver same to petrol point at entrance to Route No.8.

Any Unit in possession of pumps suitable for refilling 4-gallon drums from 44-gallon drums will hand same over to CASC for use at Petrol Points.

247. BICYCLES

Units will return all bicycles in possession to 123 FOD by 26 Sep 42.

248. TENTAGE RETURN.

Each unit will furnish a return by 26 Sep 42 showing number of tents held in the following categories :-

Tents Store.
Tents Marquee.
Tents Conical - American 16' x 16'.
Tents Oblong 12' x 14'.
Tents Ridge double.
Tents IP Privates.
Tents Auto.
Flys (without tents)
Other types.

249. ORDNANCE STORES.

All indents for Ordnance Stores will be submitted to DADOS - if possible through Ordnance W.Os who are visiting each Unit as frequently as possible.

As far as possible, Ord W.Os will deliver all stores to Units.

All inquiries regarding Ordnance Stores will be made to Ord W.Os or DADOS.

Units will not make inquiries at Ordnance Depot. DADOS handles all Ordnance Stores requirements for the Force.

When a Unit requires stores, an indent will be submitted. DADOS will then arrange supply of all items which are available, and action will be taken to order any requirements which are out of stock. Reports by letter, telephone requests, etc. only cause delay. The INDENT is the basis of all Ordnance Stores work, and Units will help DADOS to give them a good service if they set out their requirements on the Indent form. In emergency, a slip of paper or ring on the telephone will be accepted and the Ordnance Service will endeavour to deliver the goods, but at other times a proper indent is necessary.

Indents will not be submitted for Controlled Stores. DADOS keeps a running Census of Unit holdings, so that unit deficiencies are always known.

250. SALVAGE.

First line Salvage is a Unit responsibility. Units will bring all Salvaged equipment to a Unit dump. Serviceable weapons and other Stores will be extracted and taken back as Unit Equipment. Unserviceable, surplus or captured equipment, not required by Units, will be taken by Units to a Bde Dump.

At Bde Dump the Bde Ord W.O. will extract any serviceable equipment required by any Unit in the Bde and will deliver it. The balance will be collected from Bde Dumps and taken to Force Dump.

A Force Salvage Officer (Lieut Caldwell) has been appointed. He will establish liaison with Bdes and Units and co-ordinate Salvage arrangements generally.

251. CONSERVATION OF STORES.

Every effort must be made to salvage Warlike Stores, clothing and stores with a rubber content.

In view of difficulty in keeping up supplies of cotton clothing it is essential that units conserve supplies and, if possible, establish some kind of laundry arrangement.

251. CONSERVATION OF STORES (Continued)

Supplies of dubbin will be available shortly and will be distributed to Units for use on boots. Units will see that all new boots are treated with dubbin before issue to troops.

252. WARLIKE STORES.

The Census of Warlike Stores does not seem to be fully understood by many Units. It is vital to Units that they comply with the following drill :-

(a) Each Unit will submit a Census return to ADOS on 21st of each Month showing position as at 20th of the month. The return will show stores in possession.
(b) When a casualty occurs, the unit will send a signal to ADOS immediately, showing serial number, name of stores, quantity lost, and cause, e.g. DEA (Destroyed by enemy action).
(c) The Consolidated running Census kept by ADOS is amended as soon as any issue of Controlled Stores is made to a Unit or the Unit reports a loss. Thus Force HQ can see the position of all Units at any time and allot controlled Stores as required. ADOS then passes an Issue Order to the Ordnance Depot and the released stores are delivered.
(d) In reporting casualties Units should ensure that all items on Census Master Cards are included, e.g. Magazines are shown separately from Guns, Machine, Bren. If the report merely mentions Bren Guns, while Magazines have also been lost, the Unit may receive a Bren Gun, but will not receive any Magazines.
(e) When captured or alternative pattern weapons or equipment are held and in use as unit equipment, full details will be appended to the relevant census return slips.
(f) ADOS keeps a statement of all controlled stores in stock and seeks a direction from the Staff when Unit deficiencies are disclosed and the particular items are in stock. The necessity for prompt and accurate returns by Units is, therefore, apparent.
(g) COs of all Units will give their personal attention to Census requirements.

253. CENSUS OF MT VEHICLES.

(a) This return must be rendered to ADOS at the same time as Warlike Stores returns, i.e. on 21st of each month, showing position as at 20th of the month.
(b) The return will be rendered in duplicate on form G.32, if available, otherwise on sheet of paper.
(c) When a casualty occurs, i.e. a loss or a gain, including transfer, it will be reported within 24 hours on G.52 (MT Casualty Return) or by message if G.52 not available.
(d) On the back of the return Form (G.32) the Unit will show the following particulars :-

(i) Army Registn No.
(ii) Make.
(iii) Model.
(iv) Type.
(v) Engine No.
(vi) Size of tyres.
(vii) Whether fitted with chains.

(e) The returns will show vehicles in possession. If Unit vehicles are in Transport pool they are not in possession of Unit but will be shown in return by Transport pool. If any Unit has submitted a return including any vehicles detached to the Pool, they should submit a Casualty Return immediately.

255. CENSUS OF MT VEHICLES (Continued)

(f) Vehicles in Workshops for more than two days will be marched out by Unit on Cas Return and taken on charge by Workshop. Casualty Return will again be furnished when repaired vehicle is restored to Unit.

254. RESTRICTION OF MT.

During periods when ships are unloading no two-wheel drive vehicles, Ambulances excepted, will travel on Routes 1, 4 and 11.

Units will take the necessary steps to ensure that all personnel concerned are aware of this instruction.

Col.
AA & QMG. MILNE FORCE.

NOTICES.

PAY BOOKS:

Found: Pay-books for the undermentioned have been found and may be collected, as under :-

Pay-book No.354811 - QX.26654 Pte W.J. Kerlin at 11 Aust Fd Amb.
" " 156421 - QX.15349 J.M. Allen at 1 Aust Fd Cash Office.
" " 472209 - V.142329 A.R.Williams " " " " "
" " 469631 - V.126243 J.N.Weeding " " " " "
" " 469588 - V.126255 L.G.Graham at HQ Milne Force.

Lost: Pay-book, number unknown, together with wallet containing money for the undermentioned has been lost and if found is to be forwarded to 2/12 Air Liaison sec.

VX.67739 Tpr F.T. Stevens.

BANK PASS BOOK:

Found: Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia Depositors Pass Book No. 200662 in favour of John Gifford PEGLER has been found and may be collected by the owner on application to HQ Milne Force.

TYPEWRITER:

Lost: Royal Typewriter marked front and back in orange paint (Capt K.C. Campbell) has been removed from bivouac area of "C" Coy 61 Bn and, if found, is to be returned to HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde.

RIFLE:

Lost: Rifle No. 1731Q. Any person in possession of, or knowing the whereabouts of this rifle, will contact HQ 11 Aust Fd Amb.

MOTOR CYCLE:

Lost: M/C BSA C.[illegible]. Any person in possession of, or knowing the whereabouts of this M/C, will contact HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde.

APPX 30

ANTI-MALARIA INSTRUCTION.

MAIN HQTN No. AG.88.

HQ
WILNT FORCE.

17 SEP 42.

1. Malaria is a preventable disease and in view of the havoc which it may cause in a fighting force, it is the duty of all ranks to safeguard the health and efficiency of that force.

2. The ways and means of preventing Malaria are NOT difficult to effect, but if they are to be successful they must be carried out with great thoroughness.

3. There are two principles :-

(a) Personal protection against the bites of mosquitoes.
(b) Collective control of mosquito breeding;

PERSONAL PROTECTION AGAINST MOSQUITO BITES IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL METHODS OF MALARIA PREVENTION.

4. Malaria carrying mosquitoes bite only between sunset and sunrise. Personal protection, therefore, need NOT be taken during the hours of daylight, but from sunset to sunrise the following personal precautions must be taken by all ranks :-

5. USE OF MOSQUITO NETS: This is the most valuable single method of Malaria prevention. Nets must be inspected daily for holes, and repairs effected at once.

6. WEARING OF PROTECTIVE CLOTHING: Slacks with gaiters or short putteos and shirts with sleeves rolled down to the wrists.

7. USE OF MOSQUITO VEILS AND GLOVES: For Guards and Sentries.

8. USE OF ANTI-MOSQUITO CREAM: This is to be smeared on the hands, face and neck at sunset and thereafter every two hours until soldier gets under his mosquito net.

Personnel should be encouraged to get under nets as soon as possible after dusk.

9. COLLECTIVE CONTROL:

(a) Reduction or elimination of the mosquito production by treating breeding places in and around camp sites.
(b) Destruction of adult mosquitoes.
(c) Segregation of personnel infected with Malaria so that they cannot infect mosquitoes, and the freeing of the blood of infected personnel by adequate treatment.

10. Collective control will be under supervision of a Malaria Control Unit and individual units will be advised on the means of preventing breeding within their own areas. Split coconuts are a prevalent source of breeding and all areas must be cleared of same.

11. Destruction of adult mosquitoes by spraying is a valuable means in tents and huts, of preventing personnel being bitten by infected mosquitoes. Spraying is carried out with a "Flit Gun" or equivalent and must be done as soon as possible after daylight, and again before dusk.

12. SUPPRESSIVE TREATMENT BY QUININE: Dose: Two tablets (10 grains) daily.

This procedure suppresses the symptoms of Malaria and prevents severe infections, rendering medical treatment much easier.

13. The importance of observing the above instructions cannot be overestimated. It has been proved all over the world that such observance will reduce Malaria incidence to a minimum.

14. Articles refered to above, which are not at present on issue, are now coming forward and units should submit demands to the appropriate service in anticipation of stocks being available.

Col.
AA & MG MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:

As for Milne Force Routine Order Serial No. 42/42.

CAC/RJ

War Diary

Australian Military Forces

TELEPHONE— APPX 31

A260 Eastern Command

Please quote this Number when replying

CONFIDENTIAL.

Address

Date

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS - OPS AT MILNE BAY - 26 Aug/8 Sep 42.

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

19 SEP 42.

HQ NG FORCE.

1. Attached hereto are AF's W.3121 in connection with the above.

2. The recommendations cover Special and Immediate awards only, and are shown below by nature of award. Names are arranged in recommended order of priority as to merit, for each award.

3. SPECIAL AWARD - Victoria Cross.

QX.1071	Cpl FRENCH J.A.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Q.27624	W/S Lieut T/Capt BICKS C.H.	61 Aust Inf Bn
TX.2018	T/Capt IVEY C.H.V.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn

MILITARY CROSS.

QX.6003	Capt ANDERSON A.J.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
QX.1254	Lieut PATERSON J.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
SX.1461	Capt MIETHKE G.R.	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
QX.3817	Lieut T/Capt KIRK C.S.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
Q.22853	Lieut SCHINDLER A.J.	25 Aust Inf Bn

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

Q.22716	Sjt LUDLOW J.J.	25 Aust Inf Bn
QX.415	Sjt De VANTIER R.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
SX.10515	Pte ABRAHAM A.J.	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
Q.22003	Sjt STEEL S.D.	25 Aust Inf Bn
Q.17042	Cpl IRWIN A.C.	9 Aust Inf Bn

MILITARY MEDAL.

Q.22900	Cpl WARREN J.C.	25 Aust Inf Bn
QP.2365	W.O.1. BARNETT K.C.	25 Aust Inf Bn
SX.9891	Pte KOTZ J.A.	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
TX.362	Pte JOHNSTON A.McI.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
QX.16859	Pte MAYNE G.J.	2/12 Aust Inf Bn
Q.15775	Pte BAUMANN L.F.	9 Aust Inf Bn
SX.1603	Cpl O'BRIEN J.F.P.	2/10 Aust Inf Bn
QX.8849	L/Cpl PRESTON S.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn
QX.43	Pte DONALDSON R.C.	2/9 Aust Inf Bn

4. May receipt of this memo and enclosed be ack, please?

Maj-Gen.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

APPX 32

HILLE FORCE HQ'S BULLETIN NO. 19.

19 Sep '42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/19:

1. MADAU detachment reports that a whaleboat was sighted in GOODENOUGH BAY at 1735 K/18. The boat contained JAPS and it is believed that they were trying to escape from that area, possibly GOODENOUGH IS. This morning our A/C found the whaleboat and strafed it. Over 500 rounds of ammunition were used.

2. Native reports are still coming in to the effect that odd parties of JAPS have been seen in the AIUCHA - JAGA JAGA area. Latest report is that 10 JAPS armed with rifles were spotted in this area at 0600 K/18.

3. A barge was observed in vicinity GALAWAI (GOODENOUGH IS) this morning and our BEAU FIGHTER A/C are keeping a close watch for its re-appearance.

4. It is now reported by TAUFOTA natives that a JAP answering to the description of the one who was captured and escaped recently was killed and buried on the 15 Sep.

S.W. PACIFIC:

5. New Guinea: There were only scattered patrol engagements in the Owen Stanley Range area. The heavy fighting reported earlier has apparently broken off. There have been some skirmishes 32 miles from Moresby.

6. Our fighters raided Buna yesterday firing 55,000 rounds of ammunition destroying 15 barges and starting large fires.

7. A night bombing raid on Rabaul caused some fires.

8. One enemy plane dropped bombs last night on Port Moresby. Little damage was done.

OVERSEAS:

9. Red Forces have succeeded in smashing the Nazi spearhead which was threatening Stalingrad but the position is still critical. The Russians have advanced near the Grozny oilfields having retaken several villages.

10. There have been nine 1000 bomber raids on Germany this month.

11. New Zealand aircraft attacked an enemy convoy off Norway scoring two hits on one vessel and another was hit.

12. Another large contingent of American troops has arrived safely in Britain.

APPX 32

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No. 30.

30 Sep '42.

S.W. PACIFIC: New Guinea:

Fighting in the Owen Stanley Range has been confined to patrol activities only. Allied fighters have again raided Buna. Our planes also attacked Lae and Salamau. In a night bombing raid on Rabaul fires were started which could be seen 50 miles away.

Australians have been conducting guerilla warfare on Timor since the Japs landed there. Dutch forces are also believed to be resisting the invaders. These forces are members of the original garrison on the island.

OVERSEAS:

German forces are engaged in bitter street fighting at Stalingrad. The smoke of many fires covers the city and somewhat reduces the striking power of the Luftwaffe. Heavy artillery barrages continue on both sides. The reinforcements moving down to the city from the North are stated stopped for the moment. The Reds have commenced a fresh offensive 500 miles North of Stalingrad. The Russians are still preventing the German advance to the Grozny oilfields.

The RAF in its raids over Germany is now stated to be using bombs weighing 6000 lbs, twice as big as the previous heaviest, 4000 lbs. In the recent mass bombing of Dusseldorf a factory area of 260 acres was reduced to rubble in a single night.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/30:

Reports by natives indicate that there are still a number of JAPS East of TAUPOTA and they are stealing from village gardens and killing pigs for food.

A reward of 50 lbs rice and 2 lbs tobacco has been offered to the natives for each JAPANESE prisoner brought in alive.

Captured documents show that JAPS who landed on GOODENOUGH ISLAND on 25 Aug and who were straffed by our A/C before barges and stores could be removed from the beach, lost all M.L.C's and a great deal of weapons, equipment and food. From the tone of this report it would appear that the JAPS are in a parlous state as to food and clothing and are also deficient in weapons and ammn.

APPX 34

AIR MAIL & FREIGHT SERVICE MILNE FORCE

HQ MILNE FORCE
20 SEP '42.

ADM 1/8TH AD100.

1. As from 18 Sep '42 a detachment of AASC and of Aust Army Postal Service will be located at Gurney Field (No. 1 Strip).

2. These detachment will be in charge of an AASC NCO and will be responsible for the following duties:-

(a) Collection of all mail from incoming aircraft, except safe hand & Air Force mail, and despatch to Field Post Office HQ Milne Force.

(b) Despatch of all outgoing mail, except safe hand and Air Force mail, by suitable aircraft whenever available.

(c) Receipt and safeguarding of all freight arriving by aircraft unless consigned to Air Force Units, and despatch of such freight to appropriate units of Milne Force through AASC if clearly addressed. If consignments are NOT clearly addressed NCO in charge will contact DAQMG Milne Force for instructions.

(d) Despatch of outgoing freight by suitable aircraft when available.

3. The NCO in charge will be advised in advance as far as possible of movement of freight.

4. The practice of units ringing HQ RAAF & enquiring if mail or freight has been received will cease forthwith.

for J W Williams Maj
GSO1 & CMG MILNE FORCE

DISTRIBUTION:

As for Milne Force Routine Orders
Serial No. 42/42.

APPX 35

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO. 21.

21 Sep '42.

S.W. PACIFIC: New Guinea:

Allied medium bombers yesterday raided Lae. There was no interception and all our planes returned safely. Eight tons of bombs were dropped in this raid. There was little activity in the Owen Stanley Range area yesterday. Allied fighters strafted Buna and the Japanese lines of communication through the Kokoda Gap. One Zero was shot down and supply dumps were set on fire. One ack-ack battery was silenced. Allied planes strafed a Japanese whaling boat off Goodnough Island killing the occupants. In the Milne Bay area scattered Japanese are still endeavouring to get through and are being caught by our patrols. A few enemy bombers were over Port Moresby last night. All dropped their bombs aimlessly and with little effect. U.S. Flying Fortresses bombed a Japanese battlefleet N.E. of Tulagi. Two battleships may have been hit. Buka, in the Solomons, has been again raided by our bombers and some large fires started. Minor patrol activities continue on Guadaleanel Island.

OVERSEAS: Russia: The Germans have not made any further headway at Stalingrad. In fact, the enemy has been driven from some streets which he stormed with tanks and tommy-guns. The Russians still hold important heights in the city.

Discussion of the Second Front continues in British and American newspapers.

RAF bombers were again over enemy territory last night. Details of this raid are not yet available. Some enemy bombers were over Britain last night. Damage was slight.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/21:

Following a native report of a Jap Tank seen in vicinity of WAHAMBO near LILIHOA a patrol was sent out yesterday to investigate. No tank was seen and the report is now discounted.

PORT MORESBY was today raided at approx noon by 25 Jap bombers escorted by fighters. No further infm is to hand yet as to probably enemy losses or extent of damage.

A/C recce to date reports NIL Sightings in the seaways of approach to MILNE BAY.

A/Tk guns taken from the two captured Jap tanks were received at Force HQ yesterday. It was noticed that the barrel of one had been pierced by a bullet from an A/Tk rifle. These guns will be of great value for experimental and instructional purposes on the mainland.

APPX 36

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No.22.

22 SEP 42.

S.W. PACIFIC: New Guinea:

Allied aircraft raided LAE, BUNA and KOKODA. At LAE fighters destroyed 5 barges and a tugboat. At BUNA and along the Japanese lines of communication through the KOKODA GAP, our planes strafed huts and supply dumps with Cannon and MG Fire. Extensive patrol activity is reported on the PORT MORESBY side of the OWEN STANLEY RANGE.

The Japanese force at MILNE BAY is now officially stated to be wiped out.

OVERSEAS:

At STALINGRAD the enemy is incurring terrific losses in the NW portion of the city. Russian civilians and armed forces have fiercely counter-attacked and have recaptured several streets. The German advance in the Western Caucasus has now ceased. On the Grozny oilfields the Russians are still holding up the enemy advance.

The British army in MADAGASCAR is said to be approaching the capital city. No fighting has been reported.

The Chinese are pressing attacks from three points on the Japanese occupied city of KINWAH.

During the recent enemy attack in the Middle East, Allied aircraft dropped 500,000 tons of bombs in 6 days. One bomb dropped every 75 seconds over EGYPT and LIBYA.

America will have 10,000,000 men in the army by the end of next year. At the end of the present year, figures should reach 4,500,000.

Laval has made his first move in FRANCE to enforce the new conscript labour law. All Frenchmen up to 50 and single women up to 35 who are unoccupied must register and give reasons why they are unemployed.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/22.

Native reports of a third tank were shattered to-day when the tank was identified as one of our Carriers.

A patrol which returned from WANAHUBO - LILIHOA area yesterday states that approximately 30 Japs are still in that area and are becoming extremely wary. The natives are NOT assisting the Japs in any way and they are having a difficult time finding food.

Our aircraft recce over ENTRECASTAUX ISLAND saw seven barges at GALAIWAI this morning. These are the barges which were shot up by our P.40's on 25 Aug, causing the Jap occupants to be stranded. They have made numerous attempts to get away from GOODENOUGH ISLAND of which GALAWAI is a part, but no successful attempts have yet been reported and our aircraft keep close watch on them.

APPX 37

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No. [illegible] [illegible] Sep '42.

S.W. PACIFIC: New Guinea:

There was activity in the air on both sides in the Owen Stanley Range area yesterday. Twenty-seven bombers raided Port Moresby dropping bombs 32 miles from the town. Fighting was restricted to strong patrols. Allied Kitty-hawks attacked the road from Kokoda across the Gap concentrating their fire on a 6 ft suspension bridge across a river near Kokoda. This bridge was blown up by our forces but has since been replaced by the Japs.

A well-known ship has been torpedoed off Cape York by a Japanese submarine.

OVERSEAS:

The Russians continue to fight fiercely to hold Stalingrad. They have thrown the enemy out of street after street. The Red Army has forced a crossing of the Don River. To the S.E. in Leningrad and the Caucasus the Russians continue to hold the enemy.

Heavy and medium Allied bombers have again raided Tobruk.

The Japanese battle-fleet which was previously reported attacked by Flying-Fortresses N.E. of Tulagi has again turned South. It is not known whether troopships are being convoyed but the heaviest attempt yet made by the Japs to retake the Solomons is expected.

The RAF's continued bombing is the subject of much comment in London newspapers since America's promise to continue daylight attacks by Flying Fortresses as soon as planes are available. These raids in the day and the RAF at night would hinder Germany's war effort. The German Secret Service Chief, Herr Himmler, commenting in a Jazi newspaper says that with the winter in Russia bringing a lull and releasing more planes, Germany would commence heavy reprisal raids over Britain.

In the recent elections in Sweden the Communist Party gained 52 of 1500 vacancies. The Nazi Party did not gain one seat. The German Radio stated Germany could not tolerate the establishment of another Communist country so close to her. This is somewhat similar to previous statements of Germany's attitude towards other small countries such as Yugoslavia.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 H/S3:

Our A/C recce in S'ENTRECASTAUA IS today reports a large whale boat with one mast on the beach in SEVA BAY - MASOME BAY area S.W. corner of NORMANBY IS. Other recce in the seaways of approach to MILNE BAY report NIL sightings.

Natives reported sighting a submarine N.N.E. of KANAKOPE PT at 1145 hrs this morning. The reported submarine was half a mile from the shore. RAAF sent up A/C to search for the supposed submarine but no sightings were made.

WEDAU det had an encounter with six JAPS at LARONAI yesterday. The JAPS escaped but it is believed several were wounded.

Further arty practice was carried out during this afternoon, the guns shooting towards the mouth of MILNE BAY.

J.1/GR

APPX 38

APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTION

HQ
MILNE FORCE

CIRCULAR A0238

13 SEP '42.

1. The following is a copy of HQ New Guinea Force A0795 of 19 Sep '42:-

"GOC, NEW GUINEA FORCE, has been advised by the C-in-C that, although he has no explicit power, he may make first appointments to commissioned rank and promotions up to and including the rank of Major, all such promotions to be Acting and subject to confirmation by the Governor-General within three months.

"2. This does not apply to AAMC, AAOC, RAE and WALD.

"3. In view of this information, the GOC advises that promotions on the above lines will be given effect to within units from the time of signature by the Formation Comd.

"4. Formation Comds, in exercising this privilege, are requested to make certain that vacancies actually exist so that no injustice will be done to individuals concerned."

2. In order to implement the foregoing every recommendation for appointment or promotion forwarded to this HQ will be accompanied by a certificate to the effect that such appointment or promotion would be within the authorised W/E of the unit concerned which will be quoted.

3. When appointments or promotions have been approved by Comd Milne Force, Bdes and Units will be advised by this HQ.

4. On receipt of such advice the officers concerned may assume the new rank but entries will NOT be made in pay-books nor casualty returns submitted until the promotion or appointment is confirmed by LHQ in an A.G's Appointment Order or in the C of A Gazette.

5. Lists of appointments and promotions which have been approved by Comd Milne Force to date are forwarded herewith.

Col
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE

DISTRIBUTION:-

AADC	8
RAE	4
SIGS	4
7 AUST INF BDE	4
18 " " "	4
AASC	4
MED	6
ORD	6
8/12 HF LIAISON SEC	1
1 FD CASH OFF (for infm)	1
COMD	½
AQ	1
A	1
WAR DIARY	2
FILE	1
SPARES	6

APPX 39

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No.24.

24 SEP 42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/24.

TAUPOTA det is still getting reports of Japs from friendly natives. Latest report is that on Tuesday last, 20 Japs were seen at HIOGE and 30 were seen at HUHUNA 16 miles east of TAUPOTA. These reports are now being investigated.

Our aircraft recces this morning reported 4 schooners at DEBOYNE ISLAND and one at MISIM ISLAND, but a subsequent search by BEAUFIGHTERS failed to find them. It is thought, however, that they may be local trading vessels.

Experiments with a flare forgasse will be held tonight (24/9) at 2000 hrs and searchlight practice is also to be conducted between 2000 k and 2100 k.

S.W. PACIFIC:

American Flying Fortresses attacked RABAUL scoring a direct hit on a large enemy supply ship in the harbour. BUNA, in the SOLOMONS was also raided causing fires visible 50 miles away. The track from BUNA to KOKODA was strafed heavily twice, over 34,000 rounds being used. From these operations all Allied Aircraft returned safety.

OVERSEAS:

British forces in MADAGASCAR are now only 20 miles from the capital city. Some opposition from the Vichy troops was encountered 24 miles from the city, but this was soon silenced with artillery fire.

Industrial areas of France and occupied Holland were heavily bombed by the RAF last night.

Stalingrad's gallant defenders continue to hold the Germans. Also in the Caucasus the Red Army has driven back several heavy enemy attacks.

There has been a further heavy raid on the Axis supply base at TOBRUK.

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN NO. 25. APPX 40

25 SEP 42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/25:

Our A/C recce along the Southern Coast located the plane which force landed last night at ORANGERIA BAY. A number of natives were seen near the plane but there was no sign of the crew. Other recces of the seaways of approach to MILNE BAY report three fires, possibly beacons on CAPE PIERSON, otherwise NIL sightings.

A patrol from 61 Bn discovered a Jap dump near WAGA WAGA containing a quantity of ammunition, foodstuffs and equipment. It is interesting to note that amongst the equipment were a number of bundles of firewood which were evidently landed with the stores for cooking purposes.

S.W. PACIFIC:

There has been no change in the fighting in the Owen Stanley Range. Allied aircraft have kept up continued attacks on enemy bases. Buna had 3 heavy raids yesterday. One of our planes failed to return. A bridge and ammunition supply column on the track to the Kokoda Gap were also attacked. One enemy plane dropped it's bombs in the bush near Port Moresby yesterday.

AUSTRALIAN:

New regulations are being formed to punish traders guilty of "black marketing" (trading in rationed goods without coupons). In a lower court the penalty for individuals is 3 months gaol and for companies £1000. In the higher court these are increased to 12 months gaol and £10,000 for companies. The court may also force the guilty person to display notices stating his crime in a conspicuous place in his business premises. He may also be forced to include his conviction in his letterheads. Further, the court may order the publication in newspapers of his guilt.

The Melbourne Cup is to be run on Saturday, November 21 and the Derby on the 14th. After October 1 all tipping and racing telegrams are to be banned for the duration of the war. Racing lettergrams may also be prohibited.

OVERSEAS:

The Russian forces have smashed a new effort of the Germans to break through at Stalingrad. Units of the Russian Guard drove back the enemy every time. In the Caucasus the enemy has been reinforced near Mosdock but still fails to break through. Stories of Stalingrad's gallant defenders are reaching the outside world slowly. One example was when Russian women workers in a big tank factory in the city leapt into tanks in the yard and drove them through the streets to the front line. Women exchange operators continued through continued bombing and shelling, their faces grey with the dust of battered buildings. Even bakers carts continue to trundle through the rubble taking bread to the men in the front line.

Reports from Egypt show only patrolling activity. The enemy is endeavouring to solve his supply problems and preparing himself for the next move. Allied aircraft yesterday pounded Axis ports along the Libyan Coast.

The British occupation of the capital of Madagascar has been officially announced. South African troops entered the town yesterday afternoon and a British captain interrupted the Radio Station's musical programme to read General Smuts' announcement proclaiming military jurisdiction in the city.

Northern - N.W. Germany was raided last night, some of Britain's heaviest bombers taking part. Aircraft of the Coastal Command also attacked an enemy convoy off the Dutch Coast scoring direct hits on three vessels. Ten British aircraft failed to return.

(OVER)

Some bombs were dropped on the South of England last night.

America states the Alaskan Highway will be opened in December. This strategic road, joining America to Siberia through Alaska, will be available until the first thaws in April.

A serious railway disaster has occurred in Maryland, U.S.A. Two passenger express trains crashed killing six people and trapping 14 in blazing coaches. One train was the Cleveland-Washington express.

APPX 41

HYGIENE RE-ORGANISATION

HQ MILNE FORCE
25 SEP '42.

CIRCULAR NO. AQ260

1. Authority has been given for the re-organisation of Hygiene Services throughout the Aust Army in accordance with LHQ SM12414 dated 3 Jul '42, from which the following are extracts:-

"Amendments to the O of B, Allied Land Forces in Aust, may be anticipated providing for the deletion of all Lt Fd Hyg Secs and Fd Hyg Secs both AIF and CMF, and action will be taken by formations concerned to disband forthwith all such units."

"These Hyg Secs will be replaced by the attachment of skilled hygiene personnel to the units referred to hereunder, and the following amendments to WEs may be anticipated:-

(a) H.Q. of A Division (WE II/1/3) - Medical - insert
"D A D of H (Major) ..... 1".

"Drivers M.T. - AASC 2".

Transport - insert "Lorry, disinfector, steam high pressure ..... 1".

"Van, 15 Cwt. GS ..... 1".

(b) H.Q. of a Bde - Medical - insert

"Hygiene Officer - Lieutenant .....1".

Transport - insert - Motor cycle (for Hygiene Officer) .....1".

(c) Each unit, the WE of which provides for the attachment of a Medical Officer - insert

"Sergeant (Hygiene Inspector) 1".

Action will be taken by formations concerned to raise, forthwith, qualified hygiene personnel provided for in these anticipated amendments of WEs as follow:-

(a) DADs of H - to be Medical Officers.
(b) Other Officers (Lieuts) to be (in order of priority shown)
(i) NCOs of disbanded Hyg Secs having the necessary Health Inspector qualifications, or
(ii) Health Inspectors on the waiting list for appointments in the Army.
(c) Remaining Hyg personnel to comprise (in order of priority shown) -
(i) (as (b)(i) above).
(ii) (as (b)(ii) above).
(iii) Privates of disbanded Hyg Secs having the necessary qualifications and who merit promotion."

2. It is understood that the foregoing instructions have been implemented in the case of some units of Milne Force.

3. In order to finalise this matter, however, all units will submit a return to this HQ by 1 Oct '42 stating:-

(a) Present establishment of Hygiene Personnel with the unit.
(b) Nominations (with qualifications) to fill the position of Lieut, Hygiene Duties, and Sjt, Hygiene Duties, if not already filled.

J.W. Wills Maj
for AA & QMG MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION - OVER

DISTRIBUTION:-

AADU	8
RAE	4
SIGS	4
T AUST IMF EDE	4
SS " " "	4
A&SO	4
MED	6
CEI	6
S/LD AIR LIAISON SEC	1
2 PD CASE OFF (for infm)	1
COMD	1
AQ	1
A	1
WAR DIARY	2
FILE	1
SPARES	6

War Diary
(Capt Boosanquet).

APPX 41

ADOS WAR DIARY.

1 - 25 SEP '42.

ORDNANCE DEPOT STOCKS ETC.

Stocks generally were very low as at 1 Sep '42, as units did not arrive fully equipped and clothed and, consequently, maintenance stocks were used for initial issues. Many important stores were lost in S.S. "Anshmm", including large quantities of clothing, tentage cooking appliances and other camp equipment.

About 20 Sep stocks had improved considerably particularly as regards clothing and M.T. spare parts.

At 25/9/42, stocks of cooking appliances and tentage are exhausted and urgently needed. Tables, forms, hurricane lamps, Tilley lamps are also out of stock and subject to heavy demand.

Stocks of warlike stores, except Thompson S.M. Guns are practically exhausted but advice of further shipments has been received.

Considerable advance has been made in development of 123 FOD. At 1/9/42, it consisted principally of stores under tarpaulins strewn along the edge of the road. At 25/9/42, huts have been built by native labour and also be erecting power works and covering with tarpaulins. All stores have now been removed from the ridge and the Depot properly organised into three sub-Depots. Work is now proceeding to establish a Returned Stores Depot and a Transit Branch, the latter to handle all issues to units.

The basis of stocking of FOD is 60 days maintenance at full War Wastage rates. To achieve this, stocks are being built up to 90 days maintenance.

AMMUNITION.

23 FAD was originally stocked on basis of 60 days maintenance and built up initially to 90 days. Advice received on 25/9/42 however, indicates that the basis has been increased to 120 days maintenance.

A statement of ammunition in stock as at 25/9/42 is appended.

REPAIR AND RECOVERY.

Demands on Wk/Shop Services for repair of vehicles has become increasingly heavy owing, in part, to difficulties of maintenance, due to heavy demands on the services of 4 wheel drive vehicles. Ord Wk/Shops have also been called upon to salvage and put into running order, 3 Japanese barges and also to maintain the fleet of small vessels plying to outposts. The last mentioned responsibility has involved the building of a slip, which has now been completed.

A diary of recovery work carried out by 18 Bde Sec Ord Sk/Shop is appended.

PERSONNEL.

Ordnance units are very much under strength, making it difficult to carry on their service efficiently. A report on this subject is appended.

COPY 43

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

BI-WEEKLY
DAILY AMMUNITION STATEMENT

A.A. FORM F.109
(Introduced July 1939)

F+ 23 FIELD REGT DATE 25-9-42

	Designation	Total on Hand Previous Day	Received	Issued	Remain	Remarks
	DIVISION					
1	25 PDR SH SHELL [illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]	
2	" " CHASES CHARGES	8760			8760	
3	" " BRASS CASE	10340			10340	
4	" " STAINLESS BOAT	11250			11250	
5	" " FUSES	9506			9506	
6	" " HE	5736			8736	
7	" " MK VIII-Z STAINLESS BOAT	NIL			NIL	
8	" " REDUCED CHG	NIL			NIL	
9	" " 4.5	4152			4152	
10	" 25 HE (DEYD)	3055			3055	
11	" " FSNG	11442			11442	
12	" 2 PDR HE SHOT	11440			11440	
13	" 2 PDR HE	NIL			NIL	
14	" 3" 20 CWT BR. HE	249			249	
15	" 3.7" HH SHRAPNEL	34			34	
16	" 3.7 HH HE	2024			[illegible]	
17	" 25 PDR MK I HE WITH GN CARRIER	10304			10304	
18	25 PDR SMOKE	NIL			NIL	
19	SHELL 25 PDR HE 24	5274			5274	
20	25 PDR SMOKE	192			784	
21	SHOT 25 PDR	500			500	
22	FUZES DIR N. 117	500			500	
23	CTGS 13 PDR H.E. -SL.	[illegible]			[illegible]	
24	" 13 PDR HE SHOT	NIL			NIL	
25	" 13 PDR SHRAPNEL	NIL			NIL	
26	" 4.5 M/17 BLANKS	1224			1224	

Place on file

+ Ammunition Railhead, Ammunition Depot or Group to be inserted.

SIGNATURE... G.P. Warren Lt.
O.C.

C10028/39

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

A.A. FORM F.109
(Introduced July 1939)

BI-WEEKLY
~~DAILY~~ AMMUNITION STATEMENT

2/5 F.H.U. DATE 25.7.42.

	Designation	Total on Hand Previous Day	Received	Issued	Remain	Remarks
21	BOMBS ML 3" MORTAR - H.E.	[illegible]	66		[illegible]	[illegible]
22	" " " - SMOKE	NIL			NIL	
23	" 2" " - H.E.	1:-32			[illegible]	
24	" 2" " - SMOKE	121			[illegible]	
25	" 2" " - ILLUMINATING	15			15	
26	GTDS 36 E ANTI-TANK	156			156	
33	GRENADES, HAND No 36 M	14 411			14 416	
34	" - RIFLE No 36 M	[illegible]			[illegible]	
35	" - RIFLE No. No. 68	NIL			NIL	
36	" - SMOKE No. 68	6 [illegible]			[illegible]	
37	" - HAND No. 69	NIL			NIL	
38	" - ATK No. 75	NIL			NIL	
39	" - ATK SIGNAL	NIL			NIL	
40	GRENADES - SMOKE No. [illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]	
41	" - SMOKE No. [illegible]	NIL			NIL	
42	" - SMOKE No. [illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]	
43	MINES A/TK RIFLE No. [illegible]	NIL			NIL	
44	" " " No. II	[illegible]		24	[illegible]	
45	" " " No. IV	2 [illegible]		120	[illegible]	
46	" " " No. V	[illegible]			[illegible]	
47	" " A.P. - GROUND	NIL			NIL	
48	" " A.P. - ANCHORED	NIL			NIL	
49	FUZES MINE CONTACT No. 3	2 [illegible]		120	2 [illegible]	
50	IMPROVISED MINE CONTACT A/TK A.P. No. II	NIL			NIL	
51	DETONATORS MINE C STARTER No. II	NIL			NIL	
52	CORD. DETN. 1" - 1"	18 [illegible]			[illegible]	

* Ammunition Railhead, Ammunition Depot or Group to be inserted.

C10028/39

SIGNATURE.... G.J. Warren Lt.
O.C.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

A.A. FORM F.109
(Introduced July 1939)

BI-WEEKLY
~~DAILY~~ AMMUNITION STATEMENT

+ 25 FIELD DATE 25-7-42

	Designation	Total on Hand Previous Day	Received	Issued	Remain	Remarks
	DIVISION HQ UNIT.					
53.	CAPS SIG HOT	2580			3180	
54.	" SIG SCREEN	1650			150	
55	IGNITERS MATCH TYPE ELECTRIC	NIL			NIL	
	DIVISION III					
56.	HAMMOND	NIL			NIL	
57.	HAMMOND WITH CAPPED ICE					
58	HAMMOND CHARGES	NIL			NIL	
59	QUICKY MODIFIED					
60	GELIGNITE NOBEL 808	NIL			NIL	24 lbs
61.	" 60 OR 30					
62.	" FELIX HR	NIL			NIL	
63	" DENSPHIC	NIL			NIL	
64	DYNAMITE	NIL			NIL	
65	PLASTIC HE	NIL			NIL	
66	GUN COTTON - WET SLABS FIELD	1			1	
67	" " - DRY PRISMS FIELD					
68	SLABS - T N T. FIELD	NIL			NIL	
69	GUN POWDER	NIL			NIL	
70	FUZE ELECTRIC No 31.	NIL			NIL	
71	FUZE ELECTRIC No 44	NIL			NIL	
72	PRIMACORD	NIL			NIL	
73	CORDTEX	NIL			NIL	
74	FUZE SAFETY No 11 Mk II	1440			1440	
75	" - DETONATING	NIL			NIL	
76	" INSTANTANEOUS	NIL			NIL	
77	E.I.D. - T N T	NIL			NIL	

+ Ammunition Railhead, Ammunition Depot or Group to be inserted.

C10028/39

SIGNATURE L.P. Warren Lt
O-C.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

A. A. FORM F.109
(Introduced July 1939)

DAILY AMMUNITION STATEMENT

F+ 23 FD DATE 25-7-42

	Designation	Total on Hand Previous Day	Received	Issued	Remain	Remarks
75	DIVISION HQ [illegible]	21			21	
77	" -M.G.	NIL			NIL	
80	" -SIG. [illegible]	4411			4411	
81	" -ELECTRIC M.G.	72			72	
82	" -ELECTRIC M.G.	NIL			NIL	
83	" -ELECTRIC M.G.	NIL			NIL	
84	MILITARY [illegible] DIVISION HQ [illegible]	NIL			NIL	
85	CIGS [illegible]	NIL			NIL	
86	HEAD QTRS [illegible]	NIL			NIL	
87	" LEWIS GUN	5760			5760	
88	" .303 H.P.	15873			NIL	TRANSFERRED
89	" .303 H.P. [illegible]	6240			NIL	[illegible]
90	" .303 H.P. [illegible]	27600			NIL	
91						

+ Ammunition Railhead, Ammunition Depot or Group to be inserted.

C10028/39

SIGNATURE [signature]
O. C.

APPX 44

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No. 26.

26 Sep '42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/26:

Our A/C recce today located a small transport of about 500 tons EAST of the TROBRIAND GROUP. The vessel was attacked by a flight of one Hudson and five Beaufighters. One direct hit was scored and the ship set on fire. Later recce observed that the ship was completely gutted by fire. Further recces of shipping lanes approaching MILNE BAY resulted in NIL sightings.

Further native reports indicate that there are thirty Japs occupying the huts at HIOGE, the Japs killing cattle and raiding native gardens for food. A further eleven are reported at LAPOA. These include the five previously reported. Japs are wearing native clothes and one is in a native police boy's uniform.

The crew of the bomber which force-landed at CRANBERIE BAY have been located, and a MOTH has taken off to try to land in their general area.

S.W. PACIFIC - New Guinea:

The position in the Owen Stanley Range remains unchanged. The Japs are now being subjected to our 25 pdr artillery fire. Our aircraft continue their attacks on the enemy.

AUSTRALIA:

The "black-marketing" Bill has now been passed. A slight alteration in its terms allows for a committee of three to investigate all cases before prosecution.

A Bill has been introduced to establish a Commonwealth Mortgage Bank which would make long term loans at a low rate of interest to men on the land.

Troops stationed in New Guinea are to have the same film and stage entertainment as troops on the mainland. Film companies have contributed 10 million feet of film and newsreels which have been despatched to New Guinea.

OVERSEAS:

At Stalingrad repeated tank attacks are still being repulsed while to the N.W. of the city Marshal Timoshenko's attack has caused a heavy German counter offensive. To the north of Leningrad attacks by the enemy have been driven back and the German advance to the Grozny oilfields is still held at Nosdock. Westward in the Caucasus there has been no further German advance.

While the defenders of Stalingrad continue to hold out the all important supply convoys continue to reach Soviet ports. The story of one very large convoy of British, American and Russian ships has just been released. This convoy has now safely arrived in Russian ports after 4 days of non-stop dive bombing and U-Boat attacks. The attacks began with 40 enemy aircraft each carrying two torpedoes. Mines were laid by aircraft in front of the convoy. Ten enemy planes were brought down in this first attack. On the seventh day out 70 bombers attacked and were met by Hurricanes from a British aircraft carrier. In the final attack 24 dive bombers attacked but failed to do any damage. A British destroyer and a minesweeper were lost from the escort and some cargo vessels from the convoy. Two enemy submarines were sunk and 4 more damaged.

A shortage of matches in Britain has brought cigarette lighters into popularity again. The flints required are obtained from Norfolk and some of the old inhabitants previously engaged in this industry are now producing 2000 flints a day each.

Britain is preparing its civil defence for increased German air attacks expected in the near future.

(OVER)

Since the launching of the first Liberty Ship, America has produced 476 new ships totalling five million tons. Tomorrow is to be celebrated as Victory Fleet Day in the U.S.

Reports from M.E. show patrol activity only. Allied bombers continue to batter Axis land bases. A large tanker has been damaged in the Mediterranean by Allied torpedo carrying aircraft. In the last 4 months in the Mediterranean 30 Axis ships have been sunk totalling 60,000 tons of shipping.

No further news of our occupation of Madagascar has been received. Martial law is to be retained for the present.

CAC/RJ

War Diary

APPX 45

CONFIDENTIAL AQ294

HONOURS AND AWARDS - PERIODICAL RECOMMENDATIONS - MILNE FORCE.

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

26SEP 42.

NGF.

1. With reference to my report on the ops of MILNE FORCE, 25 Aug 42 to 7 Sep 42, I now have the honour to fwd the subtended recommendations for Periodical Awards for the period ending 7 Sep 42.

Under cover of MILNE FORCE confidential memo A.260 of 26 Aug 42, I have already fwded certain recommendations for Immediate Awards in connection with the ops under reference. In case effect is NOT completely given in the cases of all Immediate Awards recommended, it is considered desirable that those NOT granted awards be included in the periodical list and receive priority above all personnel here recommended for the latter.

2. The recommendations listed below are arranged by Units, the order in which names are shown in each case representing the order of merit in the unit concerned.

The requisite AF's W.3121 are attached.

3. HQ 7 AUST INF BDE.

CBE.	TX.2002	Lt-Col T/Brig FIELD J.
OBE.	Q.15602	Capt T/Maj MAHONEY J.C.

25 AUST INF BN.

DSO.	Q.21602	Lt-Col MILLS E.S.

61 AUST INF BN.

DSO.	Q.27602	Lt-Col MELDRUM A.
MC.	QX.19918	Lieut ROBINSON H.D.
DCM.	Q.27758	Cpl WILSON J.D.
MM.	Q.27797	Sgt LOWNDES D.S.
	Q.28322	Pte LORIMER G.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES.

	Q.28514	Pte COLLINS V.D.
	Q.36032	" McNEILL A.E. (Killed in Action)

HQ 18 AUST INF BDE.

MBE.	SX.214	Lieut T/Capt KENT W.R.
OBE.	NX.48	Capt T/Maj DENNISTON J.A.Y.

CAC/RJ

2/9 AUST INF BN.

OBE.	QX.3011	Lt-Col CUMMINGS C.J.
MM.	QX.1236	Cpl GORDON J.
	QX.17341	Pte CROSS S.C.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES.

QX.157	Lieut	HERON H.A.
QX.1460	"	GODDARD J.W.C.
QX.1043	Cpl	ANDERSON J.W.
QX.5542	"	MOTATSON W.F. (Killed in Action)
QX.1793	"	BALL W. (Killed in Action)

2/10 AUST INF BN.

MC.	SX.649	Capt SCHMEDJE T.J.
	SX.1430	" BROCKSOPP J.E.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES.

VX.6330	Lieut	SCOTT A.B.K. (Killed in Action)
SX.610	Sgt	LAWRENCE I.C.
SX.190	Cpl	FEE R.C.
SX.1017	Lieut	BROWN M.J.
SX.783	Pte	SAURBIER H.D.

2/12 AUST INF BN.

OBE.	SX.1433	Lt-Col ARNOLD A.S.W.
DCM.	TX.157	Cpl HOLMYARD R.G.
	QX.1279	" HOBSON H.G.
MM.	TX.236	Sgt HUGHES C.J.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES.

QX.2165	Lieut	TEITZEL L.J.K. (Killed in action)
QX.6026	Capt	GATTOOOD K.A.J.
QX.6234	Lieut	STEDDY E.W.C.
TX.2016	T/Capt	RAFFERTY R.A.
VX.32414	Capt	SAMPSON V.E.
QX.2150	Sgt	O'SULLIVAN M.P.
TX.112	"	BRODIE L.P.

9 BTY 2/5 AUST FD REGT.

MC.	NX.12379	W/S Lieut T/Capt STEVENSON W.R.D.
MM.	NX.20733	Gnr COSTE L.V.
BEM.	NX.23795	Bdr MITCHELL T.R.

4 BTY 101 A/Tk REGT.

MC.	Q.9464	Lieut AGRENAN K.A.

SIGS. MILNE FORCE.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES.

N.14402	Lieut	T/Capt TERRY A.E.

GAC/RJ

2/5 AUST FD AMB.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES.

VX.14706 W/S Capt T/Maj LAVARACK J.O.

ANGAU.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES.

P.373 Pte RANSDEN A.

GC

Maj-Gen.

COMD MILNE FORCE.

APPX 46

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

The information contained in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's or the United States Service.

Serial No. 45.
Nos. 255 - 273

MILNE FORCE ROUTINE ORDERS.
Part I.
BY
MAJOR-GENERAL C.A. CLOWES, DSO, MC.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

HQ
MILNE FORCE
AUSTRALIA.

26 Sep 42.

GENERAL STAFF.

255. UNAUTHORISED SHOOTING.

Unauthorised shooting is both dangerous to troops and wasteful of ammunition. Milne Force RO 142, para 7 is repeated -

"Fire Arms will not be used except for military purposes."

This order applies to all troops in Milne Force and all Comds are requested to take steps to ensure that it is enforced.

256. DAYLIGHT SAVING.

Daylight saving time will take effect from 0200 K/27 when all time-pieces will be advanced one (1) hour. K time will thus be eleven (11) hours in advance of G.M.T. which remains fixed. Daylight saving time remains in effect until 0200 K/28 Mar 43.

[illegible] Col.
GS MILNE FORCE.

ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S STAFF.

257. UNIT ROUTINE ORDERS. (Aust Army only)

It has been noted that a number of units are still publishing information concerning promotions and appointments in Part 1 Routine Orders.

This practice will cease forthwith.

253. CORRESPONDENCE.

It is advised that a single copy only of memos and returns is required at HQ Milne Force, unless specific instructions to the contrary are issued.

The practice of forwarding correspondence in duplicate will cease.

The number of copies forwarded by units to Bde etc HQ will be as ordered by such HQ.

REGIMENTAL LISTS.

259. All Aust Army Units will forward a Regimental List of Offrs on the following pro-forma to HQ Milne Force on or before 3 Oct 42 :-

UNIT.....W/E.....

W/E of offrs by ranks.	Pers No.	Name.	AIF or CMF	Substantive Rank and Date.	Present Temp Rank and Date.	Posting	Staff appointments etc.

Lists will be compiled in order of seniority and will include seconded Offrs.

Where a Bty, Coy or other detachment does NOT constitute a Regiment as defined in GRO A.3/42 as amended, a list of Offrs on strength will be forwarded as above.

For instance, CASC, ADOS and ADMS will forward consolidated lists for all AASC, Ordnance and Med Offrs of the Force, whilst 9 Bty 2/5 Fd Regt will forward list for the Bty only.

260. REPORTS OF BURIALS (Aust Army only)

A copy of all Reports of Burials (W.3314) for personnel buried in Milne Force Area will be forwarded to HQ Milne Force for transmission to OC 2/2 Graves Registration and Enquiry Unit.

This procedure will be followed in all future burials.

261. CROCODILES IN LOCAL STREAMS.

The attention of all ranks is drawn to the danger of encountering crocodiles in local streams.

Crocodiles have been seen on several occasions and unless care is exercised, casualties may result amongst bathing parties and parties crossing streams.

262. APPLICATIONS FOR COURTS MARTIAL (Aust Army only)

Applications should be submitted in the form prescribed in AMR & O App.2. One copy only of the application is required.

The following supporting documents should be attached :-

(a) Charge Sheet (In triplicate)
(b) Summary of Evidence (In triplicate)
(c) Certified copy of B.122 (One copy only)
(d) AMF A.44 (One copy only)

263. MALARIA - PREVENTION OF.

Hospital records show that the average admissions of soldiers from MALARIA is 50 cases per day, and is increasing slightly. One-sixth of the Force has already contracted Malaria.

This figure is unnecessarily high. Not enough attention is being paid to the details of personal protection against mosquito bites. The following breaches of instructions have been noticed :-

(a) Personnel sleeping WITHOUT nets.
(b) Slacks NOT worn after sunset.
(c) Gaiters NOT worn with slacks.
(d) Shirts with sleeves rolled down NOT worn after sunset.

263. MALARIA - PREVENTION OF (Contd)

Comd MILNE FORCE takes a very serious view of these breaches of instructions issued primarily for the protection of all ranks from the incidence of MALARIA.

It is, therefore, directed that Comds of all units of the Australian Army will ensure that the evening meal be supervised and that the meal be NOT issued unless the soldier is wearing slacks, gaiters or puttees short, and a shirt with the sleeves rolled down. Also that regular inspections be carried out to see that nets are being used at night.

The Comd also requests the fullest co-operation from Comds of Allied Forces and RAAF to ensure, insofar as clothing, etc on issue will permit, that similar precautions are taken to those outlined herein.

The importance of protection against MALARIA and the maintenance of fitness of troops cannot be too strongly stressed.

All Comds are requested to make this important matter one of first personal interest.

264. TRAFFIC CONTROL.

Owing to improved road conditions Milne Force RO Serial No.43 para 226 concerning one-way traffic between Flying Fox Ford and HQ Milne Force is cancelled.

265. SPEED LIMIT - MT.

All MT Drivers are to be reminded that speed limit for vehicles on all roads in Milne Force Area is 20 MPH, which will NOT be exceeded.

Breaches of this order will result in severe disciplinary action.

266. CHAINS - NON-SKID - MT VEHICLES.

It is noted that, despite the dry state of most roads, a number of vehicles are still fitted with chains non-skid.

The life of chains used on dry gravelled roads is probably not more than 200 miles and considerable damage is done to tyres under these conditions.

Chains will be removed forthwith from all vehicles.

267. INCREASE IN PAY (FGM.71) (Aust Army only)

An acquittance roll will be prepared in triplicate in each Unit for all members whose paybooks have been amended to cover the increase of pay from 14 Aug 42.

Such roll will show the following particulars :-

Regimental Number, Name, Rank, Paybook Number, Unit, Old Drawing Rate (prior to 14 Aug 42), New Net Drawing Rate (from 14 Aug 42). The soldier's signature is not necessary on this acquittance roll. The various Districts of Enlistment will be segregated.

The acquittance roll number will be recorded in the member's paybook as additional authority for the increase.

When the rolls have been completed the Pay Sergeant will prepare an advice and certificate in the following form :-

267. INCREASE IN PAY (FGM.71) (Aust Army only) (Contd)

"Increase in Pay" Rolls Nos..... to.....are forwarded herewith.

DISTRICT OF ENLISTMENT.	NOS OF ROLLS. From	To
QUEENSLAND		
NSW		
Etc.		

"I certify that the Increase in pay has been entered on the Daily Rates of Pay page of the paybooks of the members concerned and the Net Drawing rates have been amended accordingly as on and from 14 Aug 1942.

DATE _____ _____ PAY SGT.

_____ UNIT.

Action is to be taken to have this instruction carried out as soon as possible.

268. ACQUITTANCES (Aust Army only)

The general condition of Acquittances received by Paymaster, Milne Force is unsatisfactory. Units must take steps to see that Acquittances are thoroughly checked before submission to Paymaster, particularly in regard to the following points :-

Alterations not initialled by Paying Officer and Soldier, Segregation of States not carried out, Acquittances not being cancelled where necessary and initialled by the Paying Officer, careless use of carbon paper with resulting omissions on duplicate copy, block letters not being used for soldiers surname, soldiers signatures irregular.

269. UNIT TRUST FUNDS (Aust Army only)

The attention of all Units is directed to the provisions of GRO F.251 which provides, inter-alia, the following :-

(a) An audit of each Trust Account will be conducted monthly by members of the Unit approved by the CO.
(b) The following certificate, covering each Trust Account, will be sent to Paymaster Milne Force for submission to Command Paymaster:-

"I certify that all Regimental Trust Funds and Mess Accounts in connection with the Unit have been audited for the month of ..... 1942 and that the accounts have been reconciled with the respective Trust Account Books."

_____ CO

_____ UNIT.

(c) In connection with Regimental Trust Fund expenditure, the following additional certificate will be furnished by the CO of the Unit.:-

"I certify that expenditure, from the Regimental Trust Fund, of amounts of canteen profits paid into the fund, has been incurred only for the benefit of Warrant Officers, non-Commissioned Officers and other ranks and NOT for the benefit of Commissioned Officers, the purchase of ordinary military requirements or for assistance to any religious or philanthropic institution.

_____ CO

UNIT.

270. CONTINUATION PAYBOOKS (Aust Army only)

Completed paybooks, before being forwarded to Milne Force Paymaster for issue of Continuation Paybooks, are to be reconciled by the Pay Sergeant. Such reconciliations are to accompany completed paybooks when forwarded.

271. ACCUMULATED CREDITS IN PAY-BOOKS (Aust Army only)

It has been noted that, in some units, soldiers are drawing large sums of money from the accumulated credits in their pay-books and that many instances of loss of such money are being reported. All troops are to be advised that pay accumulated in pay-books is NOT liable to forfeiture if not drawn.

The following facilities for disposal of accumulated pay are available :-

(a) All pay accumulated may be drawn by the member on pay day if he so desires.
(b) Pay may be remitted at any time to any person, bank account, etc. Necessary forms for this purpose may be obtained by unit pay personnel at Force Paymaster's Office.

Pay need not be drawn regularly. Notice should be given by members to unit pay personnel prior to unit pay day of the amount they wish to draw.

Comds will ensure that none of the above facilities are denied to unit personnel.

272. CENSUS RETURNS (Aust Army only)

Returns of Warlike Stores and MT Vehicles for Aug and Sep were generally VERY UNSATISFACTORY. The Census has not been taken seriously. The result is that delay has occurred in arranging for deficiencies to be made up.

The Monthly Census Return is the only return required from Units by the Ordnance Service. It is of vital importance to the fighting efficiency of Units. Unless they are rendered promptly and accurately, the Ordnance Service cannot keep up the supply of essential Weapons and other Warlike Stores, and cannot provide the correct range of MT spare parts to keep Unit vehicles in working order.

The job of preparing these returns is necessarily somewhat complicated. It should not be treated as a simple job, but requires careful application and study of instructions. The job has been simplified as far as possible by the provision of Master Cards to each unit. If these Master Cards are correctly prepared in the first instance and kept up to date, then the job of preparing Monthly Returns becomes comparatively easy.

Every CO must realise the importance of the Census and give his personal attention to ensuring that the returns of his Unit are correct and on time.

273. DISEMBARKATION AND DISCHARGING OF CARGO - MILNE BAY.

HQ Milne Force Administrative Instruction No.2. of 17 Sep 42 is amended by deleting the name "Maj L.V. Miller" wherever appearing and substituting "Maj Francis Irwin."

Col.
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE.

CORRIGENDA.

Milne Force RO 44/42 of 19 Sep 42, para 239 is amended by deleting "Nil returns will be submitted where applicable."

Milne Force RO 44/42 of 19 Sep 42, para 238 is amended by adding "Nil returns will be submitted where applicable."

NOTICES.

Lost: Battery Charger (Briggs & Stratton) No.25600 MPC No.6019 from 2/9 Aust Lt AA Bty W/S Sec situated at Gili Gili Factory. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of this Battery Charger will contact 2/9 Aust Lt AA Bty.

Lost: Leather Writing Case containing ten pounds (£10) in notes and Income Tax Stamps to value of fifty-five pounds (£55) from old "C" Coy Area 61 Aust Inf Bn, south of cross roads, routes 5,6 and 12. Any person in possession of, or knowing the whereabouts of this Writing Case will contact 61 Aust Inf Bn.

Lost: Pistol .32 in leather case. Any person in possession of, or knowing the whereabouts will contact 2/12 Air Liaison Sed.

Lost: Garand Calibre 30 Model M.1 rifles of the following numbers :-
462609
465463
Finder please contact 101 CA(AA) Bn US Forces.

APPX 47

HILNS FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No. 27.

27 Sep '42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/27:

Long range A/C sightings today report JAP shipping in the BOUGAINVILLE IS (Solomons) Area. The JAP apparently does not relish the idea of giving up his bases there and is in places still endeavouring to regain them.

JAP dump discovered in the WAGA WAGA Area a few days ago is reported to contain amongst other things at least 14,400 rounds of .256 and two cases of .5 in amn. This amn will be useful for JAP weapons mounted on our small vessels for AA defence.

Our patrols in the WAGA WAGA Area now report no sign of JAPS, and recently discovered tracks indicate that the JAP has vacated from this vicinity at least a week ago.

S.W. PACIFIC:

New Guinea: There was sporadic fighting in the Owen Stanley Ranges yesterday. The Japanese forward outposts were forced to withdraw. Our planes again dive bombed the bridge with good effect and also set on fire several huts. Buna was again attacked. One bomber was destroyed on the ground and AA guns silenced. Rabaul also was bombed by Allied A/C one freighter being hit.

Army Minister, Mr. Fords, said Militia had acquitted itself well in New Guinea.

Solomons: U.S. bombers attacked Jap bases in Solomons, one transport hit, two Jap planes destroyed.

OVERSEAS:

Russia: Germans are still shelling Stalingrad but at no point has the Russian line been broken. The Russians have counter attacked successfully. Heavy fighting is still going on in the Nosdock Area where the Germans are being held.

Middle East: Western Desert still quiet. Tobruk has been bombed 95 out of 100 nights since its capture by the Germans, 4000 tons of bombs having been dropped.

Vichy reports impending Allied invasion of Dakar, French West Africa. They say Britain is blockading Dakar preparatory to attack.

Oslo attacked by large force of RAF bombers. One failed to return. Quisling was addressing party leaders to celebrate second year of occupation and was forced to take cover.

APPX 48

KILLER FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No. 32.

28 Sep '42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/28:

Our patrols in WAGA WAGA area report evidence of a party of JAPS, of approx 5 strong, using a hut one mile north of LILIHI during night 26/27 Sep.

The area GORONI - WAHADALA to foothills is clear of JAPS as no trace of them has been discovered during recent searches.

Heavy rain last night and today has resulted in KALOHI CK flooding and HAGITA FORD being reported as impassable to all vehicles from 1200 hrs. The MAIWARA R. has also been affected by the rain and has increased its depth, in places causing slight overflowing of the banks.

WEDAU det killed 2 JAPS at LARONIA on 27 Sep.

S.W. PACIFIC:

New Guinea: The position in the Owen Stanley Range is unchanged. Buna was attacked by an Allied heavy unit. Trobian Island was bombed and one enemy transport destroyed. A low altitude attack was also made on Rebaul where one ship suffered a direct hit with a 1000 lb bomb and another ship was possibly hit.

Darwin: Three Japanese bombers raided Darwin last night but there were no casualties.

OVERSEAS:

Russia: In the Stalingrad area the Germans have been forced back and Marshal Timoshenko has improved his position. North-west of the city the Russian counter attack is still making progress.

Caucasus: Bitter fighting is still in progress in the Nosdock area. The "Red Star" says the Germans have lost so heavily in the Russian campaign that it may be possible not only to hold the Germans but push them back.

Wendel Wilkie recently returned from Russia, told newspaper men that a second front was of utmost importance and that next summer may be too late. He was greatly impressed by Russian war effort. Russia has lost 5,000,000 men, killed, wounded and missing in the war against Germany.

Egypt: Tobruk was again heavily raided. Japanese naval mission to Turkey is now on its way back to Berlin.

Bombing of Gestapo HQ at Oslo was welcomed in London. These HQ are known in Oslo as the German Torture Chamber.

It is believed the Germans are experimenting in new air fighting tactics. Tests are being carried out on a new plane known as Messerschmitt 210.

COPY.

JCL/RJ

War Diary APPX 47

SECRET.

SUBJECT: RATIONS SUPPLIED TO TNPT "H.M.S. VAN HEUTSZ".

AQ.332

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

28 SEP 42.

NGF.

1. The above transport recently arrived at this port with two (2) Squadrons USA Air Force and att USA tps. On arrival the Ship's Captain advised :-

(a) That USA SOS had rationed the ship for incoming journey.
(b) That the ship had sufficient rations on board to cover crew ONLY on return trip to Mainland.
(c) That he (the Capt) had been instructed to embark 75 and 76 Sqns RAAF at MILNE BAY for Aust ports.
(d) That such trip was expected to occupy eight (8) days.
(e) That rations for these men (strength 750) would be supplied by RAAF at FALL RIVER.

2. Reference was made to NOIC FALL RIVER and his only instns were to embark approx 750 RAAF personnel on "Van HEUTSZ".

3. RAAF HQ MILNE FORCE had instns to embark 75 and 76 Sqns RAAF and 15 Sec PSU RAAF (Total strength approx 750) with certain equipment on "Van HEUTSZ". As they had been rationed by MILNE FORCE, it was assumed that the same arrangements would apply for rations to be placed on board the Tnspt, sufficient for voyage to Mainland.

4. Up to three days prior to date of embarkation of these RAAF tps, all personnel MILNE FORCE had been on a 2/3rd ration scale. Additional supplies had arrived in ships in same convoy as "Van HEUTSZ which enabled restoration of normal Field Ration Scale. The "Van HEUTSZ" itself carried 150 tons of rations for Aust tps as well as 180 days "B" rations for US Air Sqns disembarking here.

5. To enable RAAF personnel to proceed by this ship, ten days rations, as per att AAF P.55 (in triplicate), were [illegible] and signed for by Chief Officer. Eight of such days to cover voyage and two days landing rations.

6. This matter is referred for favour of :-

(a) Investigation as to why ship's rations, to cover full voyage incl tps to be transported, were not placed on board at port or original embarkation.
(b) Debit to appropriate service and/or Shipping Coy in respect of rations provided here.
(c) Advice as to future procedure on similar cases. It would appear that to ship supplies for consumption by tps at MILNE BAY on a tnspt and then to reload portion of such supplies to ration outgoing tps on such tnspt, was never the intention of the competent authority on the Mainland.

(SGD) C.A.CLOWES. Maj-Gen.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

APPX 50

CONFIDENTIAL.

PILLAGING OF RATIONS AND CARGO.

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

29 SEP 42

CIRCULAR No. AQ.341

1. The Force Comd is deeply concerned that apparently NO effort is being made by Comds and their subordinate offrs to check the pillaging of rations and cargo which is prevalent throughout MILNE FORCE.

2. Instances have been reported of trucks which left the wharf with 30 cases of rations arriving at Depots with only 6 cases.

3. There should be no need to emphasise the senseless nature of such pillaging - the persons concerned are merely stealing from themselves and their comrades, with consequent waste and hardship.

4. It is felt that the root of this trouble is the evident failure of offrs and senior NCOs to realise their responsibilities and, while regretting the necessity, the Force Comd directs that the following action be taken :-

(a) A complete tent and kit inspection will be made without warning in every unit. In the event of personnel being in possession of unauthorised articles, they will be charged and dealt with. Further, consideration will be given to charging the offr whose normal duty it is to inspect such tents etc with "Neglect to the Prejudice of Good Order and Military Discipline" or other appropriate charge.

(b) A report that such inspections have been completed will be forwarded through normal channels to HQ Milne Force on or before 10 Oct 42.

(c) Every Comd will draw the attention of his subordinate offrs to the grave consequences of continued pilfering and will point out to them that to allow such practices to continue will be regarded as a serious offence. He will direct that each and every one of his offrs take the necessary steps to ensure that every offender, irrespective of the Arm or Unit to which he belongs, is punished immediately the offence comes under notice.

(d) The instruction contained in para (c) will be implemented by personal interviews between Comds and their offrs and a report will be forwarded through normal channels to this HQ when such action is completed.

5. It should be evident from the foregoing that the Force Comd is determined to stamp out pilfering and he expresses the desire that the Comds of Allied and Air Force units put these instructions into effect, so far as their troops are concerned.

6. Staff Offrs from Force and Bde HQ will inspect the lines of units from time to time, as opportunity arises, and reports of such inspections will be forwarded to this HQ. Should the personnel of any unit be in possession of pilfered articles, consideration will be given in regard to action against the Commanding Officer concerned.

7. It is apparent that if pilfering is allowed to continue unchecked, not only will the supply system be endangered, but also the ill-discipline will spread and will destroy the team spirit which is essential to the success of the Force.

8. Receipt of this circular will be personally acknowledged by the Comd of each Unit addressed.

Col.
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:
(For transmission to Units under Comd where applicable)

COMD	1
G	1
AQ	1
Q	1
CAMP	1
DAPM	1
RAE	4
SIGS	4
7 AUST INF BDE	4
18 AUST INF BDE	5
AASC	4
MED	7
OFD	6
AADC	8
"A" Hy BTY RAA	1
1 AUST FD CASH OFFICE	1
2/2 GRAVES REGISTRATION AND ENQUIRY UNIT	1
ADOS	1
RAN	1
RAAF	4
USA SOS	13
8 FIGHTER GP	3
ANGAU	1
HQ NGF	2
WAR DIARY	2
FILE	1

APPX 31

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No. 29.

20 Sep '42.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1800 K/42:

A/C Recce today have been active in spite of last night's and this morning's rain. There are, however, no sightings of enemy vessels adjacent to MILNE BAY.

WEDAU reports 30 JAPS in vicinity of NIOGE and also denies a native story that JAPS on the North Coast were observed wearing native dress. This story originated from local WEDAU natives and has been caused by the fact that the JAPS impressed some of the natives for work with them. The impressed natives have now deserted.

NEW GUINEA:

Our land forces had a quiet day yesterday. Allied aircraft raided Buna and the Jap supply lines to Kokoda.

Flying Fortresses have made a further raid on shipping in Rabaul Harbour. A direct hit and a near miss were scored on a 15,000 ton cargo vessel.

Two or three aircraft dropped bombs in the bush near Darwin twice during the night.

AUSTRALIAN:

Fifteen hundred service women were in a march through Melbourne yesterday.

OVERSEAS:

RAF medium bombers have again heavily raided Tobruk. Long range bombers attacked transports on the Bardia Road.

COPY

JCL/RJ

War Diary

AQ.333

APPX 52

S E C R E T.

SUBJECT: RATIONS - MILNE FORCE.

HQ
MILNE FORCE.

29 SEP 42.

NGF.

1. When QMG visited these HQ abour 21/22 Aug, he advised that arrangements would be made for all ships leaving the Mainland for this port to be loaded to full refrigeration capacity with fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.

Up to and including the three ships which arrived this port on 26 Sep, NOT one had any such loading.

In fact, the tpt "VAN HEUTSZ", which embarked 75 and 76 Sqns RAAF from this port, did NOT have any rations for such tps, and rations as per schedule "A" att were loaded on the ship from supplies recently received from the Mainland and cattle killed locally.

2. The MV's "MULLIAMA" and "BARINDA", which recently unloaded at this port ex CAIRNS, both had space available which might have been used for such supplies as potatoes, carrots, turnips etc.

3. It is suggested that either of these ships might be earmarked for the run CAIRNS to FALL RIVER, and that their loading be confined to dry rations topped off with supplies such as potatoes, turnips, cabbage, onions, and the like, with any available fresh fruit. The last named to be NOT shipped over ripe. Eggs, in crates, could also be conveniently shipped by these vessels, which have a speed sufficient to do the trip CAIRNS to FALL RIVER in 3 days. All supplies, such as mentioned in this para, would carry well over such a period and the vessels are of such size as can be conveniently worked at the old Pontoon Wharf, or in stream.

4. At CAIRNS, it is understood, there is another small vessel, the MV "ALAGNA", which has 100 ton refrigerated space available. Perhaps this ship might be diverted occasionally to this port and loaded with more perishable rations, such as frozen mutton sufficient for two days rations for 12,000 ration strength. Locally killed beef supplies a change in menu from tinned products, and an occasional mutton issue would be a welcome variety.

With the advent of the recently arrived Fd Butchery, perhaps consideration might be given as to the feasibility of shipping some live sheep on tpts. The local herbage is NOT suitable as food for sheep, so any animals sent would need to be hand fed on the ship and be in such condition on shipment as to land in fair condition.

A further variety might be given by shipment of pigs. If supplies of bran and pollard were forthcoming, and a few litters of pigs (suitable selected as to some for almost immediate killing and others for breeding) sufficient waste food salvage is available here to provide food for such animals.

5. The QMG also canvassed the possibility of sending a number of fowls with suitable feed. It is suggested that even a limited number of these might be forwarded, sufficient say to provide fresh eggs for the "SICK IN HOSPITAL" - average say 1000 beds occupied each day.

S E C R E T.

SUBJECT: RATIONS - MILNF FORCE.

6. A further matter discussed with QMG was REFRIGERATION. None exists here. Beef has to be cooked within a few hours of killing, and this will be accentuated as the hot season develops. The QMG said he would arrange for immediate shipment of two (2) only 5000 c.ft capacity refrigs for ASC meat depot and twelve (12) only 1000 c.ft capacity for Unit Storage.

No word has since been received on this matter and the importance of such storage being made available immediately, is apparent.

7. In MILNE FORCE Signal AQ.16 of 8 Sep 42 (gps 74 to 97 incl) it was pointed out that unless supplies of fresh vegetables and citrus fruits were made available within two to three weeks from that date, sickness rate was likely to increase. Supplies have not been received and the admission rate to hospitals is, in fact, increasing. As a substitute, supplies of ASCORBIC tabs were requisitioned, but it is understood these are not readily procurable in Aust and would have to be either imported or manufactured. In either case, delay must inevitably occur. The need for urgent shipment of fresh vegetables and citrus fruits is, therefore, of paramount importance if the health of troops in this area is to be maintained and hospital admission rate kept within reasonable bounds.

Every resort is being made to local supplies, but these are so very limited as to make a negligible contribution to a force of the strength now here.

8. The representations made herein are based on :-

(a) The need for a balanced diet for all ranks in view of the medical opinion that troops in this area are more liable to infection from various ailments than in other parts of New Guinea, or in the Middle East.

(b) The full use of existing local resources (such as beef) and the development of fresh resources (such as pig-raising, poultry, etc) In this connection a market garden is now being planted with experimental seeds.

(c) If above are developed, the consequent reduction in shipping space required to transport tinned and preserved products from the mainland, and, of course, the initial saving on purchase of such supplies.

(d) Suggestions made to and by QMG on his visit to these HQ about 5 weeks ago.

9. It is requested, please, that urgent representations based herein be made to the appropriate authority.

(SGD) C.A. CLOWES. Maj-Gen.
COMD MILNE FORCE.

Schedule "A".

RATIONS LOADED ON "VAN HEUTSZ" FOR RAAF (at MILNE BAY)

		10 days.
Bacon	lbs	515
Biscuits	"	2,750
Butter	"	605
Cheese	"	344
Coffee	"	49
Oatmeal	"	440
Jam	"	458
Mustard	ozs	32
Curry	"	48
Pepper	"	55
Salt	lbs	165
Sugar	"	1,032
Tea	"	172
Meat Pres.	12 ozs tns	3,850
Milk (Cond)	lbs	688
Fish. Salmon	"	412
M & V.	"	1,375
Canned Vegs.	"	688
Fruit Pres.	30 ozs tins	489
Fruit drd.	lbs	228
Meat Fresh	"	6,000

APPX 63

MILNE FORCE NEWS BULLETIN No. 30.

30 Sep '43.

LOCAL NEWS TO 1500 K/30:-

Further native reports state there are 11 Japs at PIRIPIRI RIVER, all in bad physical condition, and only three carrying rifles. Also report 60-80 still at HIGGE living in church and priests house. A third group are reported at NEVIRA RIVER.

WEDAU reports that 4 Japs were killed at GUAGANANI on 28 Sep. A sweep of North Coast between WEDAU and TAUPOTA is being carried out at present, but no results are to hand as yet.

Patrol at WAGA WAGA killed one Jap 200 yards north of WAGA WAGA yesterday afternoon. There were no other signs of enemy occupation in this area for over a week.

Reports from native sources indicate that the remaining Japs on NORMANBY IS. were evacuated by plane and boat last Saturday night.

The water at HAGITA FORD fell sufficiently over night to allow vehicles to cross, but the further rains today have made the Ford unorossable again.

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC.

NEW GUINEA. Australian attack on Japs in Owen Stanley is making progress. Counterattack was built up from patrols and developed into present offensive. The Australians are advancing with adequate air support.

LAE and BUNA were again raided and BOUGAINVILLE island was also attacked by Allied Bombers.

SOLOMONS. 42 enemy planes have been shot down in the SOLOMONS in the last four days, 23 bombers and 1 fighter over GUADALCANAL yesterday. The 42 planes shot down comprised 24 bombers and eighteen fighters.

RUSSIA. The Red Army has given more ground around STALINGRAD and serious inroads have been made in the N.W. area. The Germans have thrown in 30,000 fresh troops and 150 tanks forcing the Russians to give ground. STALINGRAD has 1,000,000 men against them, and have suffered 40 round the clock days of bombing.

In the Eastern Caucasus Panzer reinforcements have made the position grave for the GROZNY OILFIELDS.

The Germans have used circular torpedoes, which move in a diminishing circle, and strike with surprising force.

MIDDLE EAST. BENGHAZI, TOBRUK again bombed by R.A.F. Clash between patrols in Southern sector on Monday otherwise all quiet. Dust storms have prevented aircraft from operating successfully.

MADAGASCAR. All quiet in Northern portion of MADAGASCAR.

FAR EAST. Japanese transport columns were bombed on the BURMA ROAD by U.S. bombers. All planes returned safely.

J.W.A.B.

APPX 54

OFFRS SUITABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS TO COMMAND AND TO STAFF APPOINTMENTS.

HQ
MILNE FORCE

CIRCULAR No. AQ366. 30 SEP '42.

1. The following is a copy of N.G. Force Order No. 436 of 16 Sep '42:-

"Nominations of Officers considered suitable to fill appointment to Command and Staff Appointments will be submitted to HQ NGF through normal channels on 25th of each month.

"This refers particularly to such appointments carrying the rank of Lt-Col or superior rank."

2. Nominations for the month of September will be submitted on the pro-forma overleaf to HQ Milne Force on or before 8 Oct '42, in duplicate.

3. Thereafter additions to or deletions from nominations already submitted will reach this HQ by 18th of each month.

4. One pro-forma is to be used for each offr and is to be completed in a similar manner to the example given overleaf.

for J.W. Wilkie Brig Col
AA & QMG MILNE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION:-

Comd	1
G	1
AQ	1
ADC	2
RAE	1
Sigs	1
7 Aust Inf Bde	4
18 Aust Inf Bde	4
ASC	1
Med	1
Ord	1
HQ NGF (for information)	8
War Diary	8
File	1

War Diary (Copy)

OFFRS SUITABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS TO COMMAND AND TO STAFF APPOINTMENTS.

.....UNIT .....BRIGADE .....DATE

PERSONAL NUMBER	RANK SUBSTANTIVE & TEMPORARY	NAME	UNIT & PRESENT POSTING	QUALIFICATIONS -To include any special Civil Qualifications & Schools & Courses attended.	APPOINTMENT FOR WHICH OFFR IS CONSIDERED SUITABLE	REMARKS & SIGNATURE OF COMMANDING OFFICER
M10000	Capt T/Maj	SMITH, J.T.	2 i/c 105 Aust Inf Bn	Civil:- Business Manager. Military:- Staff School Aust- Duntroon, May '42.	Comd Inf Bn	J.J.JONES, Lt-Col Comd 105 Aust Inf Bn

REMARKS & SIGNATURE OF BDE COMD

I Concur

A.A.ROBINSON, Brig
Comd 45 Aust Inf Bde

REMARKS & SIGNATURE OF FORMATION COMD

SEPTEMBER 1942

INCOMING SUPPLIES

DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF SHIP	FROM	EST. TONNAGE & TYPE OF CARGO	TIME UNLOADED	REMARKS
2 Sep 42	TASMAN	Brisbane	Manifest not in possession of this office.	Ship was not unloaded. This was the second time this ship docked and it left without unloading cargo due to presence of enemy warships in vicinity.	
6 Sep 42	ANSHUN	Brisbane	66 ton ammunition 60 ton gasoline 70 ton rations 50 ton canteen stores 80 ton unit equipment	Partially unloaded - then sunk by enemy fire.	
12 Sep 42	SS JAPARA	Townsville	1000 ton (Engineer Eqpt (Rations (Vehicles Organisational equipment	Sep 15,1942	
12 Sep 42	SS VAN HEEMSKIRK	Townsville	Ammunition, Ordnance and Rations Tonnage was very heavy.	15 Sep 42	
15 Sep 42	SS MULIAMA	Cairns	Ammunition - 189 ton Rations - 7355 pkgs, including 160 drums petrol	16 Sep 42	
15 Sep 42	SS BABINDA	Cairns	8050 cases rations 62 drums oil & greases 450 drums petrol 212 ton ammunition	17 Sep 42	
20 Sep 42	SS BABINDA	Pt Moresby	Ammunition (bombs) Mail.	20 Sep 42	
18 Sep 42	SS VAN HEUTZ	Brisbane & Townsville	Bundles aircraft runways Small qty of rations & engr. equipment General supplies Gasoline	25 Sep 42	
18 Sep 42	SS HAN YANG	Townsville	General supplies for RAAF-General supplies & rations for AAMF & general supplies for US Army	20 Sep 42	Heavily loaded

APPX 35

DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF SHIP	FROM	EST. TONNAGE & TYPE OF CARGO	TIME UNLOADED	REMARKS
18 Sep	SS WEST CACTUS	Sydney	Cargo composed of mainly bombs and ammunition, gasoline and timber	23 Sep 42	
25 Sep	SS MULIAMA	--	Involved in transfer of supplies from ship to pontoon wharf.	26 Sep 42	
25 Sep	SS BABINDA	Pt Moresby	Ammunition Rations Timber	26 Sep 42	
26 Sep	BEDELIA				
26 Sep	ISLANDER	Cairns	16,204 cases rations - 1240 petrol drums 5,181 cases ammn. 726 bag sugar,peas 21,764 super ft timber 100 bales Gunnies 2,993 bundles bare wire		
26 Sep 42	JACOB	Brisbane	5,338 boxes ammunition - 1434 bags cement 3,331 pkges canteen stores- 1 bag tent pegs 1,627 pkgs. Ord. stores 33,495 sawn timber 1,723 pkgs. rations 300 bundles galvanised iron 71 pkgs. Eng. stores 239 bags cement 1 crate pump parts 1 drum brake fluid 355 drums kerosene 3 pails grease 25 drums distillate .		

SEPTEMBER 1942

OUTGOING SUPPLIES

NAME	TO	TONNAGE AND CARGO	TIME OF DEPARTURE
TASMAN	Australia	2 men personnel	2 September 42
JAPARA	Australia	384 empty petrol drums	15 September 42
VAN HEEMSKIRK	Australia	2123 empty petrol drums 8 bags mail 183 used clothing 5 ton 11 bags tubes 1 suitcase clothing	15 September 42
BABINDA	Australia	25 empty petrol drums	17 September 42
HAN YANG	Australia	4 boxes personal effects,deceased 21000 Aust Sal clothing 1 Jap field piece 1 box Jap equipment. 4 boxes clothing reclaimed	20 September 42
MULIAMA	Australia	520 empty petrol drums 20000 lbs clothing 12700 lbs rubber 4000 lbs copra 3700 lbs tinfoil	26 September 42
BABINDA		Sailed without cargo.	27 September 42.
BEDELIA		Sailed without cargo.	27 September 42.
ISLANDER		Printing Press & Rock Crusher for Port Moresby.	29 September 42.