

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

Item number: 8/5/2

2/2 Machine Gun Battalion

September 1942

AUST MG BN
R DIARY
EMBER, 1942

COMMANDING OFFICER'S SUMMARY

Enemy Attack

On the night 30/31 Aug 42, the enemy made fighting patrol attacks around the whole of the Divisional FDLs. The MMGs in practically all sectors opened fire on SDF. In the SW sector some guns fired as many as three Coy SDFs and one Bn SDF, which required respectively one minute rapid, 2 mins normal and 2 mins rapid, 3 mins normal.

Thus it will be seen that the amount of amm expended on this attack was high. Subsequently infantry battalion comds were asked to be more sparing with their SDFs, as the expenditure of amm, both arty and SAA, for what proved to be nothing more than a series of Coy raids, was colossal.

"BULIMBA"
1 Sep

This enemy demonstration was launched concurrently with his drive in the South. On the morning of 1 Sep, at 0535 hrs, 9 AUST DIV launched a Bn attack against West Pt 23. This attack was heavily supported by artillery and 2 Pls of MMGs, firing from both flanks. A third Pl was ready to move fwd for reorganisation on capture of the objective, but in fact they were unable to move fwd of the minefield owing to incomplete occupation of the position.

The inf bn subsequently withdrew, and the MMGs in support did not fire a round.

These two actions constituted the main activity for the month, which has been remarkably quiet throughout. Various harrassing shoots were undertaken by platoons in the coastal sector, the results of which are not known. Division has been asked, and are now asking all PW on interrogation what is the effect of long range MMG fire. As yet no information has been forthcoming.

Highland Division

The 1/7 Middlesex MG Bn, att to 51 Highland Division recently arrived in this country, were made our affiliated unit, and exchanges of officers and NCOs were arranged during the month. All Coy Comds and Pl Comds of Middlesex Regt spent several days with the forward Coys, and a number of the NCOs and men actually took their places in the gun teams for a few days.

Two Coys of the Middlesex Bn are to relieve us in the S.W. sector at the end of the month, when Bdes from the 51 H.D. take over this sector.

Flash Eliminator

A flash eliminator designed by Pte McLEAN, R.E., of B Coy, was tried out, and the initial tests proved highly satisfactory. The design is now being modified and improved by our LAD, and it is hoped that an efficient means of preventing muzzle flash will be evolved.

Leave

Leave started during the month, on a reasonable scale averaging about 4 men per day for 6 days.

The Christmas Shop was organised, under the capable direction of Major SEARLE and Pte IRELAND, and was a great success. Capt Frank HURLEY, Australian Photographic Unit, made it a feature of his Christmas film for screening in Australia.

Machine Gun School

9 Aust Div Machine Gun School, under command Capt G.M. TURNER, continued its work of training inf bn personnel in machine-gunnery. By 10 Oct it is estimated that every bn will have a fully trained platoon of 1 offr, 3 NCOs and 24 ORs, and also four trained rangetakers.

The NCOs and officers underwent a five weeks school, including indirect fire, and the ORs a three weeks school. Each inf bn now has one Sec of MMGs as part of its establishment, and if no further guns are available by the time the School finishes, this Bn will hand over all its surplus guns to build up the infantry bns to the scale of 1 Pl per Bn.

It is hoped that when this readjustment is made that the MG Coys of this Bn will be given suitable tasks.

New W.E.

A complete new W.E organisation and G1098 to build a Machine Gun Bn up to 72 guns was submitted to Division, which views the scheme with interest, if nothing else.

Training Company

Anticipating the early arrival of a fresh draft of reinforcements from Australia, the M.G.Trng Coy was reorganised, and a new staff, consisting of 5 offr and 10 NCOs was sent to the Trng Coy to cope with the situation.

Bde Exercises

A series of exercises, as laid down by Eighth Army, have been carried out by all Brigades out of the line, in which MMGs have always been in support of battalions. Many lessons have been learned, but it is noticed that Bde Commanders still appear to be inclined to pass on the responsibility of their supporting MMGs to ~~an~~ already overworked Bn comds.

Transport in these exercises has proved very troublesome, and frequently guns have been unable to get through owing to mechanical breakdowns. Long carries have eventuated.

Decorations

During September the Military Medal was awarded to L/Cpl E.G.BRANDRICK (C Coy) and Pte R.G. MCGREGOR (D Coy) for gallantry during operations in July. Presentations of ribbons by the GOC, Lieut-Gen MORSHEAD, to Sjt LOMGHURST and Cpl KNIGHT, also took place.

Brigadier D.A.WHITEHEAD, formerly Commanding Officer of this Battalion, took over command of 26 Aust Inf Bde during the month. It was with pleasure that the Bn heard first of his DSO, and then that he had been given his Brigade.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2 18
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/2 Aus MG Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Sep 42 To 30 Sep 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
EL ALAMEIN Egypt	1 Sep	0005	<p>Attack supported by arty, the MGs was launched against enemy posns W pt 23 (872296-872297) with the object of opening a corridor through which a raiding force including the was to advance into enemy rear areas. The attack went in on time, but the capture of the objective was only possible after hard fighting. Heavy arty, MG and mortar fire was brought to bear on the attackers from enemy posns sited in depth. Owing to this very heavy opposition the attacking force was unable to open the corridor for exploitation, and it and the mobile force were withdrawn to our former posns. Heavy casualties were known to have been inflicted on the enemy & 103 German PW (incl 6 wounded) were taken.</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.2em;">{ See Appx "A" "BULIMBA" Op }</p>
		1500	<p>1 Coy 2/2 MG Bn & 1 ATK bty withdrawn into Div. Reserve area. Div Tac HQ rejoins Main HQ.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2178
(ad. ed.)

Unit 2/2 Aust MG Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Sep 42

To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
		2000	D Coy commence move to area 423 902, completed by 0100 hrs, D1 + D3 posns handed over to B2 + B3 pls. D2 posns evac except for skeleton gun crews, 2 guns.	
		0925	2 MEs over 881 294. Award of DCM to Cpl Knight, V.H., confirmed by C-in-C.	
		1135	6EA divebombed arty posns 876 297, 2EA med 2/43 Bn FDLS Battle casualties: NX 20262 Cpl ALBERTSON, A.F., GSW L ear + hand NX 32641 Pte HAYES, I.W., NX 53787 Pte CAMPBELL, D.E., NX 23064 Pte MATHIESON, O.J., wounded, remained with unit.	
		1331	4 ME 109s divebombed area 876 297.	
		1730	Situation in South: 25 enemy thos approx 434 880 and 150 about 433 878, believed total German th force. 75 ths at 427 878 believed belong to Ariete Div. Big concentrations MT at RAGIL + area 890 255 Enemy engaged by our aird forces from N + E.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2148
(adopted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/2 Aust MG Bn

Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	2 Sep.		M.G. School postponed, instructional staff. rejoined unit.	
		1000	Main 9 Aust Div closed at 429902; reopened 88832944.	
			NX 57086 Cpl GEANY, W.T., + NX 33092 Pte LEARY, L.E., wounded in action, remaining with unit.	
		1730	Salvage unit, which has been under command Capt WRAGGE, reverts again to Div command.	
			13EA over area (Bn HQ) during afternoon. Our fighters intercepted Stukas 1530 hrs - 6 destroyed, 1 probable, 11 damaged, 2 ME109s damaged.	
			News received yesterday that NX 16912 Cpl KNIGHT, V.H., has been awarded DCM.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.21.9
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit R/R/Aus mg bn

Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	3 Sep.		Night quiet on front; patrolling in coast sector. Enemy appear to be withdrawing in southern sector, RAF continue heavy attacks on enemy concentrations, 4000 lb bombs have been used. Dem Tps on S flank now reached area of 264 nothing line.	
		1310	3 ME109s bombed area 87743001 - no damage.	
			Enemy shelling on FDLs during day - 400 shells TEL EL EISA sector.	
		1640	Enemy fighter MGa right flank FDLs area 875296; ME109 flying north dropped 5 red flares over area 882294.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2119
(ad. ed.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit R/R Aus MG Bn.

Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	4 Sep.	0405	3 EA following general line of coast, main rd, & by respect- ively, flew WEST machine gunning. Each machine firing 2 guns, one fore & one aft.	
			Chaplain R. Bird transferred to 2/3 CCS; held final church parade 1100 hrs ^{yesterday} commemorating end third year of war war.	
			Chaplain J. ALCORN, from 2/3 CCS, in his place as Padre.	
			NX 20382 Cpl TRESSIDER, R., attending ME "Tough Tactics" course, 7-29 Sep.	
			Mail arrived.	
			O.O. no 19 received. CO to locate MG/ATK pats to secure the area north of the line given for movement between Posn A & EL ALAMEIN & as a base for Cav and for the ops to South.	} Appendix B O.O. no 19

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	4 Sep (cont).		<p>The action in the South continues favourably for our forces. The enemy is being compelled to withdraw slowly westward, under constant pressure from land & air. Last night 2 NZ Div. pushed southward towards Muhafid & Munassib, repelled four separate attacks by Panzerarmee. Total enemy killed 515 (150-200 German), 20 German & 180 Italian PW Taken. Our total losses approx 50, many of which are recoverable (50% of German losses).</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/2 Aus M Gdn

Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	5 Sep.		33 ORs Taken on strength (10 from "X" list) Routine Orders published. NX52519 Cpl. ROWLEY, A., Pon Ord Rm Cpl, Trans to HR Coy as Ord Rm Cpl.	} Appx D } Routine Orders
			C.O. visited A Coy.	
			In the main action to the South the enemy withdrawal westward has taken him W of Himeimat, our forces at 880 Easting grid. There are continued signs of thinning out westward, with a covering screen of the inf to the E of main body as reargd.	
		1700	Coy Comds conference at Bnttd.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2116
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	6 Sep.		<p>Church services held by new Padre, Chaplain ALCORN.</p> <p>Very quiet on Div front; shelling less than usual.</p> <p>No further developments reported from South. Indications are that the enemy intends to retain some of his forces at least in the area East of the minefields. He has strong ATK screen to protect him from the constant pressure by our Lt arm'd forces.</p>	
	7 Sep.			
		1500	<p>Presentation of decorations of 9 Div HA by GOC AIF Middle East - recipients from This Bn: D.C.M., NX 16912 Cpl Knight, V.H.; M.M., NX 25154 Sgt Loughurst, A.W.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">}</p> <p>Appendix F Decorations & Recommendations</p>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	8 Sep.		Capt G.M. Turner, Lieut M. Peachey & other personnel det again for duty at M.G. School (resumed as from 9 Sep).	
		0900	C.O. visited Coy & with Capt WILLIAMS made recce of new posns. Coy's primary task is defence on the East and SW of El Alamein, with secondary tasks the support of 24 & 20 Aust Inf Bdes west of El Alamein. Capt Williams also has task of detailed recce of area along 899 grid E of Alamein defences for approx 8 miles. This is to be recce only, for preparation as series of strong posts.	(See Appx B)
		1915	JU52 escorted by ME109 flew low over Tell El Eisa, engaged by SA fire & flew off to West with smoke pouring from port engine, it was not seen to crash.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	9 Sep	1100+	Personnel of Bonth & Holey given instruction in minelaying	
		1400	& minelifting by members of 9 Div Hd Park Coy.	
		0945	A1 & A3 pls interchanged posns. A3 all out of area by 1100 hrs.	
			Battle cas: NX25718 Pte HUME, E.A., GSW thigh (shell)	
			Enemy air activity on very reduced scale; small number fighter patrols, 2 fighter-bomber attacks & one morning Stuka attack.	
			Unit photographer, Pte WALLACE, W., to visit Coy in Turn, making a photographic record of 2nd's life in ALAMEIN area.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	10 Sep	0127	B1 Pl fired 2,500 rounds on enemy concentrations of at least 2 pls.	
		1000	Instruction in minelaying & minelifting continued.	
		1200	approx 300 shells on Div area since noon yesterday, a fairly normal day. Our arty continues to harass the enemy working parties by night & keep him awake by day. No change in South - patrolling by W and Bde.	
			News received today that Sgt A.S. DUCKWORTH, former Pl Sgt DI Pl, died of wounds 9 Sep.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	11 Sep		<p>Chaplain ALCORN evacuated to 2/8 Gd Amb (sinusitis)</p> <p>Routine Orders published: Awards FGCMs NX 27742 Pte Romalis, A., and GX 1706 Pte McDonald, V.G., published.</p> <p>Romalis 2 yrs hard labour; McDonald 15 months without hard labour.</p>	
		1230	<p>12/15 JU89s, escorted by fighters, divebombed area 880300 causing 3 casualties, setting 1 truck on fire.</p> <p>Work continued by Coy on posts on E perimeter ALAMEIN defences, with aid of compressor.</p>	
		1847	<p>6 ME109s bombed area 880299. No damage.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Sun. 13 Sep	0833	2 or 3 EA bombed area 88602945.	
		1045	9 JU87s, escorted 10/12 ME109s, shallow bombing attack 881296	
		1135	9 JU87s dropped 9 bombs area 88152965	
		1710	4 planes dropped bombs near ry sta 887293	
		1820	9/11 JU87s escorted 4 MEs divebombed post 7, dropped 15/20 bombs.	
		1849	4 JU87s bombed 883296, dropped 12 to 15 bombs.	
			Light shelling in 24 Bde area caused no casualties. On 20 Bde front shelling commenced at 0802 hrs & continued to 1025 hrs, mainly directed against our FDs between northings 2860292. C/battery shelling by Aus & SAA 2d Regt. after 1025 only slight activity apart from short bursts at 1340, 1427, 1512 & 1753 hrs.	
			Plt MCGREGOR, R.G. awarded M.M. for boy decoration	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	14 Sep	1140	<p>Increased enemy air activity maintained. 2/3 MEs dropped 3 bombs 87933002. Heavy enemy shelling same area at 1240 hrs.</p> <p>Cairo & Alexandria leave commenced this mng.</p> <p>Rear HQ 9 Aust Div moved fwd to area formerly occupied at — ?</p>	
		1740	<p>2 JU52s observed to land near Skyline Track S of Sidi Rahman mosque (865308); took off again 1850 hrs. Heavier Storch flew low over enemy FDs 1900 hrs.</p> <p>Increase in pay entered in paybooks.</p> <p>There has been considerable enemy movement Northward of the guns & not visible from the fwd OPs. Movement has averaged at least 100 yds to the hour during observations. Enemy has used smoke in endeavour to hide exposed portions of the Skyline Track.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	15 Sep	0955	3 ME109s bombed area approx 887294	
		1100	2 EA bombed 888293 from high level - 1 killed 2 wounded	
		1250	12/13 JU87s divebombed area 881295 + southern portion 881296.	
			Escort 11/13 ME109s observed. 3 men injured, none seriously	
		1825	RAF bombed 19 vehs on "Skyline" Track.	
		1110	12 ME109s bombed areas 438902, 437899, 43189027 = 430902	
			appeared at least 2 bombs carried by each aircraft.	
			Enemy resumed his arty harassing fire S of ry.	
			NX27163 Sgt COCKRAM, H.J.C., (A3 Pl) leaves MG school to attend OCTU, 9th Intake, 18 Sep - 14 Nov at ACRE.	
			Lt Col Stephenson, C.O 1/7 Middlesex Regt + his 2/c on visit to Col Onslow in reference to affiliation between this Bn and the Middlesex Regt + interchange of personnel on 17 Sep.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	16 Sep	0845	1 EA dropped 6 bombs which fell between 87682938 + 87712929	
		0920	2 EA " bombs 87653024	
			Afternoon & evening enemy shelled FDLs Tell & Lisa Sta, my cutting & Trig 33, ranging with smoke shells. 200 shells. In 24 Bde area about 60 shells including concentration 25 shells area 881293. This area also received 10 shells earlier in day. Other concentrations 879293-294 & 876295-296.	
		1900	Battle casualties: NX 32641 Pte HAYES, I.W., mortally wounded by HE air burst, died of wounds 2/8 ^(2030 hrs) Feb Amb, NK 52542 L/Sgt WARD, F.W.A., wounded by HE air burst both thighs, compound fracture femur. Heavy shelling of cutting at time.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	19 Sep.	0900	Pte HAYES, I.W. buried at ELALAMEIN War Cemetery (Grave No IE 26)	
			Major Darle (2/c), Lieut Keingle, Kealy & Pte Ireland, J. leave for ALEXANDRIA on shopping Trip to purchase goods for Unit Mobile Xmas Shop.	
			A3 (Lieut Garrett) relieves B3 (Lieut Ferguson) Tonight. in ref cutting posts.	
			First A Coy personnel on leave.	
		1215	9 JU87s escorted by 8 ME 109s shallow dive-bombed area 882 298. No damage or casualties. Some used sirens.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	19 Sep (cont)	1500	Reinforcements + "X" list personnel join unit. (23) including members of Troop Coy staff (A/WO ii Buchanan, S/Sgt Steele, Sgt Patterson, Sgt Webb, R/Sgt Morgan). X list rejoined Coys.	
			51 Highland Div has been affiliated with 9 Aust Div, to assist 51 HD in gaining desert & battle experience as rapidly as possible. 1/7 Bn Middlesex Regt (mg Bn) is affiliated with 2/2 Aust mg Bn and today an interchange of officers & ORs between the two Bns took place, to last until 22 Sep. Capt. R. W. Cameron (D Coy) lent to Herbertson (A Coy), Sgt's Penny & Beakley det to Middlesex Regt. Major G. M. de B. Monk (Coy comd) is with C Coy & Capt A. J. Hughes (Coy comd) with B Coy. Other officers are Capt J. H. Gray (2 1/2 Coy), Lieut H. M. Tempney (sig offr), C. S. M. Whitcombe, 8 batmen, 3 sec comds mg's, 2 NCO sigs, 2 personnel adpt. Similar exchanges will be repeated.	} Appx C } Affiliation Instr

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	18 Sep		<p>Comparatively quiet, with light enemy harassing fire over the whole Div front. This mng 2EA carried out recce at low altitude fwd of present FDLs (1020-1030 hrs)</p> <p>2/15 Bn relieved 2/17 Bn.</p> <p>During night A 3 (not reserve Pl) relieved B 3 at cutting posns.</p> <p>D1 held field firing practice & zeroed their guns.</p> <p>During last night A1 Pl on exercise with Tks & inf. Lessons were learned, particularly in use of signallers. Tonight A2 on exercise with inf & Tks. Pte Starkey injured when foot run over by Tks.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	19 Sep		<p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 50px;">87552964 →</p> <p>During night 18/19 our line of FDLs was advanced to 87602940 - 87722922 - 87952917. Digging & occupation of new positions was carried out without incident and with complete absence of enemy interference. 1 S.A. Div moved their FDLs fwd on left in conformity, from pt of junc incl BIR EL MAABUA 879292, 1 SA Div is Taking over 9 Aust Div (24 Bde) FDLs to incl QATTARA Rd on night 20/21 Sep. S.A. boundary will be from pt 33-Qattara Rd to minefd at 87822939, incl minefield to 88092929, hence old boundary. New locations: 2/28 Bn at 87902925; 2/43 Bn at 87992948. 2/32 Bn remains 87822963 temporarily. The move fwd last night was behind strong protective patrols & carried out smoothly without any interference from the enemy, who this morning were observed apparently registering on our former line. Move varies in depth 1000/2000 yds & reduces distance between our FDLs & enemy to average of 2000 yds.</p>	Appx "I"

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	19 Sep		Shelling light in cutting area, during evening. Heavy on our	
	(cont.)		fuel arty ponds.	
			EA patrolled battle area & small number fighters & bombers made	
			attacks Central Sector mng & later afternoon. Our Spitfires made	
			offensive sweeps over battle area.	
	20 Sep		Quiet night. Wellingtons & Halifaxes attacked Tobruk.	
			Mid-morning Kittybombers attacked 50 MT & tents in northern	
			sector; one oil fire, 1 ME109 destroyed without loss. Enemy air act-	
			ivity on reduced scale, mainly centre.	
			Shelling during afternoon unusually light.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			RDLI relieved 2/28 Bn night 20/21. Inter-divs bdy now incl GATTARA Track. 24 Bde dispositions fwd bns: 2/32 night + 2/28 left. 2/43 Bn in area 887293.	
			"Seale's Shop" to open at A Coy Tomorrow. For details of mobile Christmas shop see report, att as appx "	{ Appendix E } Mobile Xmas Shop
			Sgt HORAN, D.P. + A/Cpl BAYLISS, C.R., replace A/Sgt KENYON, J.H. + A/Cpl PLANK, D.L., at MG School.	
	21 Sep		Order received warning of relief of 20 Aust Inf Bde by 26 Bde during hours of darkness commencing night 22/23 Sep. 20 Bde will move to locality "A". A Coy + one pl B Coy, 2/2 MG Bn will be in sp of 26 Bde + B Coy less one pl will come under comd 20 Bde in locality "A". Reserves all kinds will remain in situ.	
		1700	Unidentified plane swooped on Bn HQ, flew out to sea. No hostile action.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(Revised)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	22 Sep		<p>W.O.ii HUGHES, D.C., S/Sgt CUDDIHY, J.C., L/Sgt WETTONE, C.E., Cpl GOODLAND, K.G., + CARSTENS, H.E., transferred to staff of Aust MG Bty Coy. Sjt D. Howe acting CSM C Coy. Rpt 1300 hrs.</p>	
			<p>Personnel from 1/7 Middlesex Regt rejoin their unit. Other members of unit to be attached temporarily as from 24 Sep.</p>	
		1617	<p>Changeover between A Coy + B Coy commenced, A Coy pls leaving Shammara area at intervals. Relief completed by 2000 hrs, without event. B3 pl now attached to A Coy, as mobile reserve pl. B Coy again come under comd 20 Aust Dyk Bde in Shammara area.</p>	
		1715	<p>12 JU87s + ME109 escort bombed areas 885287 + 886288. No enemy air activity in Aust Div area.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	23 Sep		<p>During night 2/24 Bn relieved 2/17 Bn + 2/23 Bn relieved 2/13 Bn</p> <p>Adj. (Capt. P. Warley) in Alexandria to get winter kit.</p> <p>12 JU87: escorted ME109s bombed areas 885287 886288</p> <p>B Coy established in new area, B1 pl in 2/48 Bn area Coy HQ + B2 pl at 43309025.</p> <p>D1 pl out on exercise, to return tomorrow.</p>	
		1830	<p>Cmd northern sector passed from 20 Bde to 26 Bde. 20 Bde now complete in res area. 2/48 Bn relieved 2/15 Bn during tonight.</p> <p>Light shelling of A3 area in Cutting (during pay period).</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	24 Sep.		<p>New MG school begun in Rear Div area for AA Pl personnel who have been withdrawn from posts at front. Brent. T. Southwell-Keely OC School, which will last 10 days.</p>	
		1315	<p>Personnel from 1/7 Middlesex Regt arrive - attached to A & C Coy. I.O. at Bon H. 3 officers 13 ORs att to A Coy. Capt Cameron & 2 S/Lts returned from M'sex Regt.</p>	
			<p>Light shelling in Cutting - Tell el Dia area; otherwise quiet</p>	
			<p>During night Sidi Haneish LG attacked by Wellingtons; Bostons bombed Fuks. LG 16. Today Kitebombers made two morning attacks MT & Pent's in N Sector. Spitfires patrolled battle area at height mng & afternoon w/ out incidents.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	26 Sep.		Very quiet on front. Increase in air activity both own and enemy over fwd areas.	
		0900-1000	5 EA flew over FDLs, four at altitudes below 1000 ft. Lieut V. MOULDER leaves to attend ME Gas School, with batman. Sgt COLE appl Comd S2 Pl.	
			Bombing attacked LGs Zuka & Haneish during night. Halifaxes & Wellingtons at Tobruk; Wellingtons laid mines in harbour approaches. Spitfire escorting early TacR This morning shot down 2 ME 109s, probably 1 more & damaged 1, for loss 1 Spitfire & 1 Spitfire & 1 Hurricane damaged (pilot safe)	
		2330	EA dropped 2 bombs in sq 882297 from 1000 ft. During night EA dropped incendiary bombs near El Alamein by star. Plane which dropped bombs at 882297 also dropped number of "butterfly" bombs. Some exploded on impact.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	27 Sep.	1230	<p>Lieut T. SOUTHWELL-KEELY, I.O., Lieut F. HERBERTSON, A2PL, left for MG Trg Coy, Lieut Keely as Lieutenant-Instructor & Lieut Herbertson as Captain-Instructor. Lieut M.J. LAMB also left, to take post of Q.M., Composite Trg Regiment. Application has been made for T/Captaincy for Lieut Lamb & Herbertson, no decision has yet been made on appointment of Lieut as adjt, Comp Trg Regt, but Lieut Lavan under consideration. Tomorrow Sgt M. KARTZOFF & Cpl N. CAMERON & M. THOMPSON also leave for MG Trg Coy, relieving L/Sjts STUMBLES, BEECH and Sgt FAIRBAIRN, who rejoin unit.</p> <p>Quiet day on front. 24 X list personnel & reports taken on strength.</p> <p>Enemy arty harassing our FDs between Northing 283 & coast. Central sector in mg & 1600-1845 most on R524-Lug 33 - cutting area.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	28 Sep.		Unit Xmas Shop at A Coy. Light shelling on getting; no casualties Daylight patrol out under cover of dust; our arty dispersed enemy patrol. 37 shells on 243de area; harassing fire by our arty. ME109 dropped 2 bombs in area 881287.	
	29 Sep.		Rising sand early + "Khamisin" dust storm developed later in day, with high temperature. Quiet on front. 2/c, Major Seale, & Pte Ireland visit Alexandria for more goods for Xmas Shop. C.O. Capt Frank HURLEY, Aust Photographic Unit, visit A Coy.	
		1620	9 JU87s attack S African area; slight damage to vehs.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	30 Sept		6 "X" list personnel Taken on strength, including Sgt A. FAIRBAIRN, L/Sjts STUMBLES & BEECH, thus making a complete relief of Staff of MG Det Coy.	
		0830	C.O & Capt Williams, OC Coy, made recce for harassing shoot tomorrow morning for whole Coy, with 1 pl of A Coy.	
		1330	Pl Comdo made recce with Capt Williams & pegged out areas at 87663020, to fire onto "Clover leaf" feature at 87413042.	MP Cacheris 10.
			Our forces in South attacked the eastern end of the MUNASSIB depression just before first light, at 1130 hrs the enemy was still holding out at Pt 94 (88242616), although on N edge we had reached 880 easting grid & at S side 880261, no reports yet of PW or casualties.	Lt. Col. 2/2 Apr. 1945 Co. 2/2 Apr. 1945

2/2 AUST MG BN
WAR DIARY
SEPTEMBER, 1942

A COMPANY DIARY

EL ALAMEIN 1 Sep
EGYPT

Still quiet in area, except for fairly heavy air activity. Battle in South still in progress, but little infm available.

Personnel returned from MG Trg Coy.

News received that NX16912 Cpl KNIGHT, V.H., has been awarded the DCM for his work in the recent action on the Hill of Jesus.

2 Sep

A3 personnel or vehs not allowed to leave the Pl area. Still quiet in area.

3 Sep

National Day of Prayer, and a service was held at Coy HQ by the Padre, who brought the news that he was leaving the Bn.

4 Sep

Enemy withdrawing in South. Quiet in area.

Mail arrived this evening - a large quantity of letters.

5 Sep

Capt GREEN out on recce with the BM. Was away all the morning, during which we had a visit from the C.O.

6 Sep

Church Service held at Coy HQ by the new Padre, Chaplain ALCORN.

Received A Tk fire plan from 12 Aust A Tk Bty. Placed the posns on trace of Def Locality "A"

7 Sep

Trace of MG fire plan prepared for 12 A Tk Bty. Bn fitters arrive to overhaul vehs.

8 Sep

Instructors returned to Div MG Trg School.

Pay Sjt called with money for pay, twodays early. Paid Coy HQ this evening.

Received word that A1 and A3 will interchange posns tomorrow.

9 Sep 0945

Platoons changed over early, commencing 0945. A3 were paid before the change, and were all out of the area by 1100 hrs. A2 were paid before lunch.

10 Sep

Acquittance rolls sent to Bn.

Visit from Padre, who brought with him reading and writing material.

11 Sep

Very quiet, and nothing unusual to report.

12 Sep

Coy Comds conference at Bn.

Routine Orders published.

13 Sep

No Church Service, as the Padre is indisposed. Ann return sent to Bn.

Pl Comds conference at Coy HQ.

~~Platoon groups sent to Bn. Photographs taken.~~

Platoons started using hot showers tomorrow.

Announcement made re leave to CAIRO and ALEX - 4 men from Coy at a time. A Coy to go on Thurs 17 Sep.

Unit photographer arrived. Brigadier WHITEHEAD took over 26 Bde.

14 Sep Increase in pay to be entered in paybooks. Majority of A1 Pl completed. Return re blood group sent to Bn.
Photographer left to go to D coy.
Hot showers in use.

15 Sep All available personnel went to lectures on mines given by Engrs at 24 Bn.
Sjt H.J. COCKRAM left to go to OCTU

16 Sep Very quiet ; little to report.

17 Sep First party from Coy left to go on leave.
Cpl MORGAN returned from Trg Coy and posted to A2 Pl.
During night A1 went out on exercise with inf and tanks, quite a few valuable lessons being learned, particularly regarding the use of Signallers.

18 Sep Quiet during day, but at night A2 went on similar exercise to that done by A1. During this Pte STARKEY, A., was involved with a tank, and slightly injured on the foot where it ran over him.

19 Sep Lieut BENNETT (R) on leave to CAIRO.
Very quiet. N.T.R.

20 Sep No church parade. Padre still ill.

21 Sep Preparation for change-over with B Coy. NTR otherwise.

22 Sep 1617 Changeover with B Coy commenced. Pls left at intervals.
2000 Relief completed, without incident. B3 Pl now attached to A Coy.

23 Sep Quiet in area. Drew money for pay.
Advised that Unit shop is coming.
Paid A3 at night ; several shells landed in Cutting area while pay was in progress. All quiet otherwise.

24 Sep Light shelling CUTTING-TELL EL EISA-area/ Paid A2 at night.
3 offrs and 13 ORs from MIDDLESEX REGT attached for period.

25 Sep Paid A1. Quiet day, except for few shells on Cutting.

26 Sep .NTR

27 Sep Quiet. Church service held at Coy HQ.
Unit shop arrived and was very well patronised, personnel coming in from groups. Everyone voted it a great success.
Lieut HERBERTSON transferred to Trg Coy

28 Sep Unit shop still at Coy, doing good business. Light shelling on Cutting, but no casualties.

29 Sep Quiet day. Visit from CO and Capt FRANK HURLEY, Aust Photographic Unit.

30 Sep Very quiet.

Mr Peachey
10.
S.

2/2 AUST MG BN
WAR DIARY
SEPTEMBER, 1942

B COMPANY DIARY

EL ALAMEIN 1 Sep
Egypt

BULIMBA Scheme in operation. Strong attack by 2/15 Bn on strong points E & W 23, with No 3 Pl B Coy 2/2 MG Bn providing flanking fire and B2 to assist in reorganisation ~~at~~ after objectives taken. B3 vicinity 87402985; task, to engage A Tk concentrations 87182982 to 87122987. Moved out with 3 vehs approx 2359 hrs through gap at telegraph line. Met enemy patrol strength 8-12 vicinity 87412984, exchanged SA fire. Mortared and subjected to LMG fire for five minutes. Withdrew to 87432983, dug posns. Opened fire 0605, fired to 0705. Observation limited by dust and smoke.

0800 Ordered fwd, by message relayed from Rear HQ line and wireless comn having broken down as result of enemy fire, role to assist in reorganisation. Stood by; later withdrew.

Casualties : Pte R.G. MITCHELL, killed; L/Cpl ALBERTSON, Ptes GARD, WELSH, wounded by shrapnel and evacuated; Ptes MATHIESON, CAMPBELL, D., wounded, not evacuated; Pte HAYES, I.W., treated CAP for gun burn.

20 belts per gun fired.

B2 role to assist in reorganisation after objective taken. Arrived assembly area just behind BARREL HILL 0515. Pl Comd fwd on recce. C.O. 2/15 wounded. MMGs ordered up. When arrived were sent back about 400 yds and dispersed. During this manoeuvre one truck ran onto minefield, and was badly damaged. A little later another truck was struck by a shell, but not very badly damaged. Dvr LEARY and Cpl GEANY, riding in first truck, were later evacuated as a result of their experience.

B2 later covered the withdrawal, and ~~at~~ then withdrew. Did not fire a shot, but lost 13 belts by enemy action.

Veh and Stores casualties : 2 1-ton utilities, one savalageable, 2 flat tyres on right side, about 1,000 yds from BARREL HILL. Other veh in minefd. Engine and front wheels blown off; not worth salvaging. Posn about 1500 yds from BARREL HILL. One tripod, 1 gun chest, 1 barrel, miscellaneous collection small parts.

Maj DAWSON at Inf Rear HQ during operation.

0725 Heavy enemy shelling of arty from E of Coy HQ.

0900 Nine own bombers headed W.

Body of Pte MITCHELL, R.G., NX58294, taken to EL ALAMEIN War Cemetery, Grave 1 H8, for burial.

Enemy air activity during afternoon. Heavy AA.

B1 in harrassing task (3,000 rds) during early hours of morning.

D2 and D3 withdrew from posns, which reoccupied by personnel B2-B3 during night. Temporary arrangement.

Report received from Lieut BENNETT (A1) of 3 shells near TELL EL EISA Sta, which produced red smoke on bursting.

2 Sep Quiet night.
Enemy air activity during morning.

1200 Message from Bn ordering sharp lookout for JU52
tpt planes ; to report if seen.

1800 EA over Coy HQ. "heavy AA

1910 Intensive enemy arty on flat opposite Coy HQ and
slope of 26, 10 mins.

Splashes seen in water. Possible enemy shells.

Maj DAWSON at Court Martial as President, 2/13
Bn.

Pte LEARY, Cpl GEANY, evac Bn rest camp (see
BULIMBA report). Advice received later that
Cpl GEANY infection middle ear right, infection
external ear left.

3 Sep Quiet night

Maj DAWSON again at 2/13 as CM President

1000 EA (apparent F-B) dropped 2 bombs on S slopes
26.

1700 Don R from Inf Bn injured when fell of M/C
opposite Coy HQ. Treated by CAP Cpl. Later taken
away by ambulance. Apparently broken leg.

Reshuffle of posns occupied on 1 Sep.

B1 support shoot for inf patrol, and sup from
Cutting for inf patrol cancelled.

4 Sep Quiet night

Afternoon and evening, posn changes. Cutting Secs
under Mr PEACHEY took up new posns, under comd
C Coy. B3 moved into old Cutting posns. PIMPLE
section under Mr JOHNSON withdrew and took up
new posn in C Coy area, but still under temporary
comd this Coy. At later stage personnel with
exception of Mr JOHNSON to exchange with HQ Coy
personnel at W1. B2 withdrew from temporary
posns, and took up posns : Rea P1 HQ, old area ;
one section, near PIMPLE feature ; one section
in rear of BARREL HILL.

1915 EA with large yellow cigar-shaped object under
fuselage seen over 26.

5 Sep Quiet night

Six Coy HQ personnel, under Mr JOHNSON withdrawn
from his command ; occupy W1 posn in place of
HQ Coy personnel.

2100 Bombing heard in south.

6 Sep Quiet.

7 Sep 1500 Capt TURNER and batman det to Trg Cadre.

8 Sep Quiet night.

~~0130~~
0130 B1 advised by 2/13 enemy ambush, area 87513040
arty and MMG fire on area. B1 fired 1,000 rds.

0140 Withdrawn.

0800 Cpl GOODLAND det to Trg Cadre

1030 Intensive own arty barrage/ Heavy smoke screen
seen. Possibly cover for own recce after night
firing. Heavy reply by enemy.

1915 Large 3-engined plane flew low along ridge, apparently coming in to land. Escorted by fighter. Engaged by all arms. B2, and B3 at Cutting, advise that it flew very low along ry line, disappearing over ring contour. Appearance of plane indicated JU52 or SAVOIA

9 Sep Quiet night

0900 A1 Pl moved out to rejoin A Coy. Place taken by A3 (1 offr, 43 ORs).

1400 Two guns W1 transferred to new B3 posn making B3 6 guns. Pl Coy HQ personnel at W1 now manning Inf guns.

1850 Approx seven enemy shells on Coy HQ area. Pte HUME, E.A. struck by shrapnel in upper leg whilst endeavouring to obtain cover. Evacuated to MDS.

10 Sep 0127 B1 fired 2,500 rds on enemy concentration of at least 2 Pls.

cont on next page.

B COY DIARY - SEP

- 10 Sep Quiet night.
0127 B1 Pl fired 2500 rds on enemy concentration of at least 2 Pls.
- 11 Sep Quiet night.
1000 Enemy plane overhead type unknown.
1230 12 enemy bombers with fighter escort heavily bomb arty posns East of Coy HQ.
1605 Six enemy shells, including one dud, on 2/15 Bn rear area on flat opposite Coy HQ.
1850 10 bombs on arty posns. Number of planes not known.
2100 Tests carried out of flash eliminator on VMG under direction of Pte McLEAN, R.E.
2110 Own barrage.
2130 Unidentified plane over Coy HQ area.
- 12 Sep Quiet night.
B2 rear HQ, with one truck, moved fwd to new posn approx 400 yds in rear of Sjt BARGWANNA's Sec (rear BARREL HILL). Nucleus remains in old posn.
- 13 Sep Quiet night.
0830 Two enemy bombers bombed arty posns E of Coy HQ.
1045 9 EA (2 decoys) " " " " " "
1730 EA heavily attacked posns E of Coy HQ, no unknown.
1830 9 enemy bombers escorted by fighters heavily bombed eastern slopes of 26.
1850 3 enemy bombers.
- 14 Sep 0500 Intense own arty barrage.
1140 Four enemy bombers bombed beyond ridge SW of Coy HQ area.
1240 ~~1800~~ Heavy enemy barrage.
1900 24 shells on rear B1 HQ.
2100 Air activity. Flares and bombing seen due East?
2130 Further air activity - tracers seen on W26.
- 15 Sep Own arty activity during night.
2000 Bofors gun and crew take up posn on ridge 50 yds W of Coy HQ.
- 16 Sep Quiet night.
0630 4 personnel leave for ALEXANDRIA & CAIRO (2 each) on inauguration of first leave allotment since reaching EGYPT.
1900 Pte HAYES, I.W. and L/Sjt WARD, F.W.A., of B3 in Cutting posn, battle casualties. Pte HAYES struck by shrapnel falling through shelter ventilator-- apparently air burst. Evacuated by 2/17 Bn RAP to ADS, and there died of wounds at approx 2030hrs. Sjt WARD struck, presumably, by similar shrapnel and evacuated ADS with reported broken femur. Above casualties occurred during extremely intensive shelling of Cutting.
- 17 Sep Quiet night.
0900 Pte HAYES, I.W. buried at EL ALAMEIN Box War Cemetery Grave No I.E.26.

- 1215 Nine enemy bombers divebombed arty posns. Planes apparently fitted with sirens.
- 1430 EA overhead ; heavy AA
- 1650 Heavy enemy shelling on flat, 700 yds South of Coy HQ.
- 1700 4 offrs 16 ORs of MIDDLESEX REGT temporarily att this Coy for experience, after arrival from ENGLAND approx 6 weeks. Spent a few weeks middle sector. Posted as follows : HQ, 2/5; B1, 1/2; B2, 1/3; B3, 6 ORs.
- 18 Sep Quiet night.
During course of night A3 Pl (mobile reserve Pl) relieved B3 Pl at Cutting posns.
- 19 Sep 1715 Heavy enemy shelling of fwd arty posns W of Coy HQ.
1830 L/Cpl DAVIS and 6 Coy HQ personnel withdrawn from W1 post, and rejoin Coy HQ.
- 20 Sep Quiet night.
Warning order received of forthcoming relief.
- 22 Sep Quiet night. A3 party on recce of this Coy posns.
0900 MIDDLESEX REGT personnel withdrawn from Pls and Coy HQ and returned own unit.
Coy relieved during late afternoon and night by A Coy. B3 remain, under comd A Coy as mobile reserve Pl. B Coy withdraw to posns in back area previously occupied by A Coy and Coy, less B3, again comes under comd 20 Bde.
- 23 Sep Coy established in new area- B1, SHAMMAMA, in 2/48 Bn area. Coy HQ & B2 at 43309025.
- 24 Sep Nothing to report.
- 25 Sep 2210 Sounds of bombing to East, followed by sound of planes to seaward.
The unit shop visited this Coy.
- 26 Sep N.T.R.
- 27 Sep Church parade held at this Coy HQ. Otherwise NTR
- 28 Sep B1 Pl on day exercises with 2/15 Aust Inf Bn
- 29 Sep NTR
- 30 Sep 0800 B2 Pl reported to 2/13 Aust Inf Bn for exercises the following morning.

M Peachey
I.O.

2/2 AUST MG BN
WAR DIARY
SEPTEMBER, 1942

C COMPANY DIARY

EL ALAMEIN 1 Sep
Egypt

0430 1 Sec of C3 Pl moving into posn for firing their harrassing task on the left flank of 2/15 Bn as it moves out to objective at Pt 23. Lieut FARQUHAR, who is conducting the shoot, has been at Coy HQ most of the night in conference with CO and Major BROWN finalising details of the shoot. Zero will be 0535 hrs and the guns will engage targets Z+75. Amn allotment 20,000 rds Mk VIIIz.

0535 Terrific arty barrage started by our arty. MMGs also opened fire. This continued until Z plus 75, when the MMGs cut out and returned to their normal areas.

Considerable arty activity continued during the morning, until the raiding force of 15 Bn withdrew at approx 0930 hrs, having captured 102 PW, all German.

Three air attacks during the day, one at Rear HQ area and two at Tac HQ area.

Quiet night. No casualties during the day.

2 Sep

Coy strength, 5 x 140.

Desultory arty activity on both sides, otherwise quiet day.

Two pls B Coy moved into area on our left flank, came under cmd. In addition, 1 Sec D Coy also comes under cmd.

3 Sep

Coy strength, plus att, 5 x 143.

Major BROWN called to conference at 2/32 Inf Bn at 1430 hrs.

1700 Conference at 2/43 Bn to discuss a Coy raid which is to be carried out by their B Coy tonight. Details given only affect us from the point of view of information.

Owing to extreme patrol activity, the raid was NOT proceeded with, in view of the fact that no surprise at all could be gained

4 Sep

Coy strength 5 x 143.

Pl Comds conference at Coy HQ to discuss certain moves of Pls and Secs, which will take place so that the two Pls of B Coy can revert to their own command.

The following moves will take place : C1 will take over posts 20 & 23 ; C2 will take over posts 15 & 16, and occupy in addition post 17. C3 will retain posts 10, 11 and 13.

5. Sep

Coy strength 5 x 139.

Reliefs as set out on 4 Sep were effected during the afternoon. The relief was carried out by Secs, and from this Coy's point of view was completed by 1900 hrs. Posts 18, 21, 22 which also had to be relieved by B Coy now come under cmd this Coy. Post 18 consists of personnel from HQ Coy, to which C1 has added 4 men. The post is under cmd

of Lieut PEACHEY. Posts 21,22 consist of personnel from HQ Coy and Bn HQ, under comd Lieut JOHNSON, M.D.

6 Sep

Coy strength, 7 x 166.

Inspection of areas by Coy Comd. Check of all stores in areas being finalised. Shortages in reserve rations and water disclosed in certain areas.

Tactical situation very quiet.

7 Sep

Coy strength, 7 x 166.

Advised that 2/43 Bn is to be relieved by 2/32 Bn in present area. Supporting arms are NOT to be relieved. Advance parties from 2/32 Bn moved into area today. The reliefs to take place night 8/9 Sep.

During the relief carried out on 5 Sep 42, 2/43 Bn took over from C1 their original Pl area. Lieut KENNEDY, the MG Pl Comd of 2/43, was able to provide his Pl with 3 guns, while this Coy loaned them a further one to make up the strength.

8 Sep

Coy strength, 7 x 166

Quiet day. 2/43 Bn preparing for relief. Relief carried out during night.

9 Sep

Coy strength, 6 x 157.

Movement of Tac HQ started. It is proposed to move all of Tac HQ back to the area now occupied by Rear HQ. The decision to move Tac HQ has been made in view of the fact that the Coy now controls 22 guns, which cover a wide area, and as the present situation of Tac HQ is on the extreme right flank, it is felt that a central posn is much more desirable.

10 Sep

Coy strength, 6 x 155.

Further reorganisation of Coy HQ.

Situation on Bde front remains very quiet except for very spasmodic shelling. 2/32 Bn have now relieved 2/43 Bn on the right of the front, while 2/28 Bn have moved in on the left. This latter area had previously been occupied by 1 Coy only of 2/3 Pnr Bn.

11 Sep

Coy strength, 6 x 155.

C.O. visited Coy HQ this morning.

Maj BROWN called to conference at 2/32 Bn at 1400 hrs.

Conference disclosed the fact that it is intended to push the FDLs forward approx 2,000 yds with the right still resting on the CAIRN. 2/32 will be on the right to excl QATTARA Rd, whilst 2/28 will be on the left. The scheme is at present only in the planning stage and no definite times have been decided upon for movement.

12 Sep

Coy strength, 6 x 155

Pl Comds C1 and C3 Pls making recesses of new area with view to siting ~~Sxxx~~ 3 Secs each

Major BROWN called to see Lt Col LOUGHREY, CO 2/28 Bn, who has moved in on our left flank.

1630 Coy Comds conference at Bn HQ.

13 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 155~~5~~
Further recce carried out during day by Pl Comds on proposed FDLs. Otherwise quiet day.

14 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 161
Information received to the effect that the proposed scheme for pushing fwd the FDLs is now to be held up. No further recces will be made.

15 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 156.
Quiet day.

16 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 154.
Information received again that the move fwd of the FDLs will definitely take place on 18/19 Sep.

17 Sep Coy strength 6 x 161/
Admn arrangements being made for move tomorrow night. Two days battle rations will be provided for C1 and C3 in their fwd posns. All engineer stores and camouflage nets being obtained.
Lieut EWING had his men out on the new ground early this morning, digging gun posns until 0400 hrs.
Lieut FARQUHAR will get out to his area tomorrow afternoon, before the move, and get some digging completed.

18 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 162.
Coy Comd visited both 2/28 & 2/32 Bns to get latest information on the move tonight. No further information is to be issued by Bde. Zero for move will be 2045 hrs, when leading inf coys will move off. Covering parties will be supplied on the right by 2/43 Bn and on the left by 2/28 Bn. The following moves will take place :

- 2/32 Bn moves fwd to new FDLs
- 2/28 Bn " " " " "
- 2/43 Bn moves into area vacated by 2/3 Pnr Bn and 2/28 Bn, with a c/attack role.
- C1 Pl will move to support 2/28 Bn
- C3 Pl will " " " 2/32 Bn
- Pl at posts 21 & 22 will move to posts 11, & 20.
- C2 will move its present right Sec to post 14.
- The two guns at post 17 will be handed to C1, thus giving them 6 guns instead of 4.
- Post 17 will withdraw one gun on loan to 2/32 Bn at post 15, and man Post 17 with a single gun.

2045 Move started. First MG sections moved at 2115 hrs. Move completed without interference from the enemy.

19 Sep Coy strength 6 x 160.
Quiet day. Enemy shows no sign of having noticed the new line of FDLs, as there have been no signs of shelling all day.
Conference during afternoon with CO 2/32 Bn on right flank of present posn.
Op O received from Bde giving new Div Bound. This will entail the movement of the whole of C1 Pl, and possibly one Section of C 3Pl.

EL ALAMEIN 19 Sep (cont) These moves will take place on night 20/21 Sep.
 C.O. called at Coy HQ for lunch bringing with him Lt-Col J.W.A.STEPHENSON, CO of MIDDLESEX Regt, att to 51 HIGHLAND DIV, and Major GREEN, 2 i/c of the Regt. These officers were shown around the area and given all infm available.

20 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 163.
 The moves to conform with the new Div Bdy will take place tonight, when C1 Pl will be relieved by a Pl of South Africans. Move completed by 2400 hrs.
 C1 has now occupied post 13, previously occupied by C2 and posts 12 & 14, which they originally dug and completed when the Coy first moved into this area.

21 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 163
 Post 20 was withdrawn this morning, and the personnel manning the post returned to HQ Coy. Post 18 was relied by one additional Sec of C2, which was in turn relieved by 1 add Sec of C1. Personnel from Post 18 return to HQ Coy.
 One new gun has been received and issued to Post 17 thus making the post up to a 2-gun post. The Coy is now manning 18 guns, 6 per Pl.
 RMO called during day and announced 7 cases jaundice had to be evacuated. This naturally leaves the Coy very short, but we are still in a posn to man all our guns.

22 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 140
 Personnel from MIDDLESEX Regt returned to their own units today.
 Recces being carried out by Lieut FARQUHAR with a view to carrying out better tasks from the posn at present being occupied by his right Sec at Post 10.

23 Sep Coystrength 6 x 139.
 Quiet day.

24 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 139.
 Quiet day.
 14 offrs and NCOs from MIDDLESEX Regt arrived and were att to the Coy for 4 days.
 A school was started to train all members of the Coy in minelaying and minelifting. The duration of the course will be 2 days.
 2 i/c, Capt STANILAND, went to ALEXANDRIA to get winter clothing.

25 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 139
 Quiet day.
 OC went to ALEXANDRIA with C.O.

26 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 139
 Another mine school started today. Quiet day.

- 27 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 139
Quiet day.
C.O. called during afternoon and reinforcements arrived 4 being X List- Ptes BUCHANAN, FOX, BLAKE, MARSH.
- 28 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 147
New mine school started today.
Quiet day except for spasmodic shelling.
- 29 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 146
Orders received that 24 Aust Inf Bde will be relieved in present positions by 152 HIGHLAND BDE, during period 1/4 October.
- 30 Sep Coy strength, 6 x 146
Information being collected so that handover files can be made up. OC D Coy, 1/7 Middlesex Regt arrived at Coy HQ with his Pl Sjts to carry out recesses, for the handover. D Coy will relieve 10 of our guns on the right 1/2 Oct while A Coy will relieve 12 guns on the left on night 3/4 Oct.

M Peachey Lt
1.0.
S.

2/2 AUST MG BN
WAR DIARY
SEPTEMBER, 1942

D COMPANY DIARY

- EL ALAMEIN 1 Sep
Egypt
- Considerable decrease in arty firing during day.
- 1730 Coy received orders to move to reserve posn, square 423902.
- 1900 Lieut CAMERON reced new Coy area.
- 2000 Move commenced, and was completed by 0100 hrs. D1 and D3 posns were handed over to B2 and B3 Pls respectively. D2 posns were evacuated except for one NCO and 6 men manning two guns in the position to South of Main Rd. Three NCOs returned from instructing at MG School. 1 OR returned from rangetakers' school.
- All Coy trucks were returned from Bn HQ with drivers.
- 2 Sep
Coy dug in and prepared camp area in new site, with D1 approx 42389025, Coy HQ 42389023, D3 424902, and D2 42359020.
- 4 x 3-ton trucks withdrawn from Coy and 2 x 1-ton, 1 x 30 cwt and 1 x 3 ton issued in their place.
- 3 Sep
Quiet day.
- Capt WILLIAMS made recce during afternoon with view to occupying eastern perimeter of EL ALAMEIN defenses.
- 1 OR evacuated.
- 4 Sep 0400 EA machine-gunned Coy area.
- 0900 Capt WILLIAMS continued recce eastern perimeter and selected Pl areas.
- No 1 Pl approx 88852910, No 2 Pl 88962904, No 3 Pl 89072912, 89122914.
- Pl comds made recces of their areas during afternoon.
- 5 Sep
Further recce by Pl and Sec Comds during morning, and Pls commenced digging during afternoon.
- D1 held up for compressors, owing to solid rock over whole posns.
- 4 ORs returned from B Coy, 3 ORs "X" List, and 11 reinforcements marched in.
- 6 Sep
Pls continued digging posns.
- Reinforcements allotted to Pls as follows : HQ, 3; D1, 5; D3, 3.
- 7 Sep 0900 Capt WILLIAMS, with C.O., made recce of new posns to be prepared as series of strong posts along 899 grid East of ALAMEIN defences for distance of approx 8 miles.
- 1300 Capt WILLIAMS took Pl Comds on detailed recce of area. Pls continued with work on present positions.
- 1 OR evacuated, 1 OR marched in from "X" List

- 8 Sep Pls continued digging on posns on eastern perimeter. Work facilitated by compressor obtained from Engineers. Further recce of strong post posns by Pl Comds and Sec Comds.
3 NCOs to MMG School as instructors ; 1 OR to Rangetakers' School.
- 9 Sep Pls continued work on their posns.
D1 and D3 Pls given instruction in arming, disarming and laying of mines.
1 OR evacuated, 1 OR trans to HQ Coy.
- 10 Sep D2 and Coy HQ given instruction in mines and mine laying. Pls continued with digging of positions. Nothing further to report.
1 OR evacuated.
Word received that Sjt DUCKWORTH, Pl Sjt of D1 Pl, died of wounds 9 Sep.
- 11 Sep Work being continued on posns on eastern perimeter of EL ALAMEIN defences, with aid of compressor, but under instructions from CO work on strong post posns not to be gone on with as yet.
1 OR evacuated.
- 12 Sep Quiet day. Training and digging continued.
1 OR evacuated.
- 13 Sep Pte Mc^UREGOR, R.G., awarded Military Medal, this being the first decoration for the Company.
Nothing unusual to report. 5 ORs detached to man guns in C Coy area
1 OR returned from Rangetakers' course; 1 OR sent to attend 5 6 days course.
- 14 Sep CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA leave commenced. Alotment for the Coy 4 men every 5 days. Period of leave 4 clear days in either place.
- 15 Sep Enemy air activity on increased scale.
Three days school, map reading, started within Coy for NCOs.
1 OR trans to HQ Coy.
- 16 Sep Quiet day. Work in D1 held up owing to compressor being withdrawn.
1 SB trans to C Coy.
- 17 Sep Capt CAMERON and 2 Sjts left to spend 5 days with MIDDLESEX REGT.
10 ORs ex "X" List returned to Coy from MG Trg Coy
Very quiet day otherwise. Mapping school finished
- 18 Sep Very quiet day. One Sjt returned to Coy ex Trg Coy.
D1 went further East and held field firing; zeroed their guns. Another mapping school started.
A/WO ii BUCHANAN returned from MG Trg Coy
- 19 Sep Very quiet day Very little aerial activity.
- 20 Sep Quiet day. Pay held in view of the XMAS SHOP coming tomorrow.
Senr Chaplain held service.

- 21 Sep Searle's shop opened. All men buying Christmas presents.
6 ORs returned ex C Coy, 1 Cpl to Trg Coy
1 OR to rangetakers' school; 1 OR returned ex rangetakers course.
D2 went out on exercise.
- 22 Sep Very quiet.
Capt CAMERON brought 2 offrs up from MIDDLESEX REGT.
D2 returned from exercise.
- 23 Sep Very quiet day again. All men busy sending Christmas parcels.
D1 out on exercise.
- 24 Sep Quiet. Capt CAMERON and 2 Sjts returned from MIDDLESEX REGT.
D1 back. 1 OR returned from Con Depot.
- 25 Sep Very quiet day. Searle's Shop came back.
Learned more men PW.
- 26 Sep No activity.
Mr MOULDER goes to M.E. Gas School, with batman.
Sjt COLE takes over command D2 Pl during Mr MOULDER's absence.
Another mapping school started within the Coy, run by Sjt BUCHANAN and Cpl DYMOCK.
- 27 Sep Quiet day. Nothing to report.
4 X List marched in, including Pte McGREGOR, R.G., M.M.
- 28 Sep Pls continued with trg and organised sport.
Nothing further to report.
- 29 Sep Training continued, and the 20 ORs who were temporarily detached to C Coy returned to this Coy in the afternoon.
2 ORs evacuated.
- 30 Sep 0830 Capt WILLIAMS made recce with C.O., with view to harrasing shoot for whole Coy during tonight.
1330 Pl & Sec Coms went out with Capt WILLIAMS on recce, and pegged out posns at 87663020, with job of firing onto "Clover Leaf" feature, ref 87413042.
1 OR evacuated, 3 ORs returned ex "X" List.
1 OR ex rangetaker's course.

*Mr Peachey's
1.0.
G.*

WAR DIARY.

"Q" 2/2 Aust. M. G. Bn.

SEPTEMBER.

Generally, due to the nature of the ops in the Field, there is nothing of exception to report regarding "Q" activities.

Rations :- Daily rations remained practically unchanged. During the early part of the month, all units of the A.I.F. were precluded by Order from the purchase of Supp. Rations in Alexandria. Later, advice was received that these could be obtained from Mobile Canteens, from which source those of this unit have since been bought. The range was limited and in order to comply with the direction of the C.P.M., considerable outlay had to be made in the purchase of eggs.

Clothing :- The position regarding the supply of the major items of clothing was becoming acute and Indents remained unfulfilled until the end of the month, when Shorts and Boots and some Shirts were delivered. There still remains the need for a considerable number of the latter.

Equipment :- Due to the scale of operations, there was no urgent demand for any spare parts. Some Brackets, Dial Sight, were made available. ^{8th Army} Jerricans were recalled by A.D.S.S. and over 200 were returned.

Vehicles :- 1 VMG was issued to 2/28 Bn and 1 loaned to 2/32 Bn. Some further exchanges occurred, 3-ton and 30-cwt Lorries being handed over for 1-ton Vans. Numerically, the strength remained the same.

Kit Store :- As requested, a Nominal Roll of all personnel whose Kits were at the Store, was prepared and forwarded, to enable Winter Clothing to be withdrawn.

New W.E. Table :- On the basis of 6-Gun Platoons, a New Table was prepared and submitted.

J. G. Cameron Capt.
Q.M. 2 Oct. 42.

XXX

2/2 AUST MG BN

WAR DIARY

MEDICAL DIARY FOR MONTH OF
SEPTEMBER, 1942

Personnel.

There has been no change in the personnel during this month. The number is only 12, which does not permit the medical work of the Bn to be carried out as easily as would be possible with the number on establishment (16). When the numbers of trained personnel diminish whilst on front line service, the difficulty is always in finding suitable men to take their places. These are not available from the Bn itself, as the right type of men are always in more or less key posns, and do not wish to become stretcher bearers. There are two solutions readily available :

- (i) Training men at the MG Training Coy to become efficient medical orderlies.
- (ii) Obtaining transfers from already efficient medical orderlies in the A.A.M.C. Trg Wing to MG Trg Coy, to act as stretcher bearers.

The latter procedure would in my opinion produce the better types as only the better types would transfer from a non-combatant unit to a unit which is liable to much more exposure to enemy fire. Both solutions have been sent on to the training wing for action, if possible.

Casualties.

Casualties for the month, although light for service in the front line, were a little higher than those for the preceding month, 9 as opposed to 5. Of these nine casualties, three were fatal and in every case were caused by enemy shelling, air burst being the bete noir.

Evacuations

Evacuations excluding casualties amounted to 48, which is a considerable improvement on last month's total. These were comprised as follows :

Clinical dysentery	12	
Infective hepatitis	14	
V.D.	3	, including one tertiary syphilis.
Relapsing fever	1	
Miscellaneous	18	

It will be seen that dysentery and infective hepatitis although accounting together for over one half of the evacuations, are relatively small figures for the climate and period of the year.

Sickness and Health of Unit.

The general health of the Unit is particularly good, due in no small measure to the personnel of unit being as a whole hygienically minded. The Bn rest camp, which is being used as a holding place for those people not sufficiently ill to be evacuated, has also helped in no mean manner. Desert sores have practically ceased to exist amongst the troops, and the infective ~~has~~ diarrhoea, as opposed to the typical dysentery, has almost died a natural death.

Infective hepatitis, after a phenomenal outburst in the middle of the month, resulting in 13 cases in one company in five days, had by the end of the month subsided completely. The occasional true dysentery still crops up (12 for the month), but such cases are likely to be always with us, due to either one of two causes :

- (a) The presence in the Unit of an unsuspected carrier, who is continually infecting new troops ; or

- (b) Latent cases which only produce signs and symptoms serious enough for the soldier to seek treatment some considerable time after infection.

Considering that the infections were practically equally divided amongst B, C and D Coys, the first hypothesis seems the more unlikely. If it be due to latent cases, no prophylactic measures beyond the normal hygiene being kept efficient, are needed or of any use.

Rest Camp

The Bn rest camp is proving quite an asset to the Unit as regards wastage of men. Minor illnesses are thus able to be treated and returned to their companies in a considerably shorter time than would be the case if they were evacuated through the normal channels.

During the past month the function and scope of the rest camp has been somewhat enlarged. We have been keeping in the rest camp the minor jaundices, especially as applied to soldiers in key posns. They are returning to their Coys fit and able to undergo any exertion whatsoever in 10-12 days. This is a considerable improvement in the time of evacuation if they be sent to hospital, when it takes 5-6 weeks for such men to return. In the experience gained on Crete during severe epidemics of this disease, these minor cases do not need hospital treatment, and no complications ensue from such cases. Special diets and treatment are available for these men, thanks to the Q.M. and the Regimental funds. They are efficiently cared for by Sjt Shearwood, our RAP Sjt. Each patient has his individual tent, and being right on the beach regards the stay as a holiday, rather than a sick leave. In my opinion, this camp has thoroughly repaid the work that has been put into it.

Remarks.

V.D. is on the increase since leave has commenced again. Each case has resulted from the soldier becoming drunk, and being too drunk or too careless to use the necessary prophylactic measures. As the prostitutes are of the wandering type, no check can be kept on same. In my opinion the only deterrent to people seeking such amusement away from the controlled brothel areas lies in the paybook. No amount of drastic warnings will affect this incidence.

The only other remark worthy of note is the pious hope that more trained medical orderlies will be available to the Unit before our next action. Transfer of personnel from AAMC to our unit would solve the difficulty, and I hope that my proposals re same to the proper authorities will bear fruit.

Capt AAMC

(K. Dorney)
RMO, 2/2 Aust MG Bn

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

- 7. DEC. 1942

Army Form C.2119
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 77 L.A.D.

Date and Time.—From 1st Sept 1942 To 30 Sept 1942.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
In the Field	1/10/42 to 30/10/42.		Normal MT Repairs to vehicle of 2/2 Aust MG Coy " " " " " " " " 2/3 rd & 2/13 th Fla Coy	
			Maintenance & Repairs of L.A.D. vehicles & equipment.	
			Manufacture of several flash eliminators for vehicles MG. also variations to suit trial & error. For 2/2 Aust MG Coy.	
			Storeman QX14406 Hqpl Cullen MW. returned to unit from hospital.	
			Modifications in accordance with Divisional instructions carried out on C.A.S. & Bartan 5 covt vehicles.	
				<p>G. Horne D. Wright. Capt. O.M.E. O.O. No. 77 L.A.D.</p>

NOTED

MESSAGE FORM.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN

OUT

C.O.
2 i/c.
Adj.
Q.M.
M.O. 3/31
I.O.
T.O.
R.S.M.

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No. 18
OFFICE DATE STAMP

O.P

0

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

2/2 M.G. Bn

FROM

MAIN AUST DIV

Originator's Number.

0701

Date.

31

In Reply to Number

Amend my	0700	in	line	12
by altering	87752941	to	88752941	and
in line	13	after	word	movement
add word	except	0	all	inf.

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS:

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY.

TIME OF ORIGIN

1235

SIGNED

SIGNED (BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I. 1300

T.O.R.

SYSTEM IN.	TIME IN.	READER.	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER.	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER.	SENDER.
R	1315	[Signature]									

CO.	
23/c	
ADJ.	
Q.M.	
P.O.	
I.O.	
T.O.	
R.S.	

9 AUST DIV OO No 17

SECRET

Copy No 8
23 Aug 42.

Ref maps: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000
EL DABA - EL ALAMEIN 1/100,000

INFM

1. The enemy is expected to attack during the moonlight period between 25 Aug and 1 Sep.
2. Bn raids are being prepared by 2 NZ Div and 9 Aust Div as immediate counter strokes to the enemy attack or for use prior to the enemy attack.
3. 7 Med Regt RA is placed in sp for the op

INTENTION

4. 9 Aust Div will raid to the west of the area "enemy 23" 872296

METHOD

5. Bde The raid will be by one bn of and controlled by 20 Aust Inf Bde
Task -
The bn will seize and hold a sector of the enemy defences through which the exploiting force will debouch and return
6. Arty -
RAA 9 Aust Div will sp the op
7. A Tk -
One bty less one tp will be detailed by CRA
8. AA -
One tp 4 Aust Lt AA Regt will be placed under comd 20 Aust Inf Bde under arrangements made by CRA
9. MG -
Two pls B Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn are placed under comd 20 Aust Inf Bde for the op
10. Mortars -
Two 81mm mortars (Italian) without dets will be provided by 26 Aust Inf Bde
11. RTR -
One sqn 40 RTR will come under comd 20 Aust Inf Bde for the op
12. Cav -
From 24 Aug 9 Aust Div Cav Regt recce along the QATTARA rd will be discontinued. The recce south of TELL EL EISA will be continued; normal activity will be continued in this area to prevent arousing suspicion
13. RAE -
One sec 2/13 Aust Fd Coy is placed under comd 20 Aust Inf Bde for the op
14. Exploitation -
Exploitation will be by the force detailed below to interfere with enemy movement and maintenance on the tracks leading south from SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN and cause maximum damage to the enemy

Page two.

15. The following force is placed under cmd 20 Aust Inf Bde :-

Comd - Maj A E McINTYRE 9 Aust Div Cav Regt
Tps - One sqn (less four tps) 9 Aust Div Cav Regt
One sqn RTR (Honeys)
One tp 13 Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt
Two tps A Tk guns (One tp detailed by CRA
(One pl 2 pr portec from 20 Aust Inf Bde
One pl To be detailed by 20 Aust Inf Bde
Det RAE From sec 2/13 Aust Fd Coy in para
13 for demolition

16. Air - Requests for Tac R and air sp at call are being submitted

17. Zero - Preparations will be completed before the night 25/26 Aug after which the raid may be ordered

18. The notice to be given will be notified later

19. Planning, organization and trg -

Comds of sub units detailed in paras 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 will be made available to 20 Aust Inf Bde and Maj McINTYRE respectively for planning forthwith and the sub units as required for trg for the op. (One sqn RTR (Honeys) on arrival)

ADM

20. Amn - 81mm amn Italian and German is available at the AP

INTERCOMN

21. Codeword -

The codeword for the op will be BULIMBA. On receipt of this codeword sub units will RV in accordance with orders issued by comds concerned

22. Tac HQ 9 Aust Div will move to 88792942

ACKNOWLEDGE

Issued through Sigs

Time of signature 2330 hrs

R. B. Lam
Maj
Col.,
GS 9 Aust Div.

DISTRIBUTION :-

Copy No.

20 Aust Inf Bde	1		
24 Aust Inf Bde	2		
26 Aust Inf Bde	3	Medical	19
Cav	4	Ord	20
RAA	5	DAPM	21
RAE	6	File	22 - 23
Sigs	7	War Di y	24 - 25
MG	8		
Sqn 40 RTR	9		
30 Corps (3) incl one for RAF	10 - 12		
Comd	13		
G	14 - 15		
AQ	16 - 17		
AASC	18		

2/31

NOTED	
C.O.	.....
2i/c	.....
Adj.	.....
Q.M.	.....
M.O.	.....
I.O.	.....
T.O.	.....
R.S.M.	.....

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO :- 20 AUST INF BDE 24 AUST INF BDE 26 AUST INF BDE
 9 AUST DIV CAV REGT RAA RAE SIGS 2/2 AUST MG BN
 1 SA DIV 30 CORPS AASC MEDICAL ORD B SQN 40 RTR
 9 AUST DIV ADM AREA Copies to :- COMD G 1 G
 Q WAR DIARY

FROM :- MAIN 9 AUST DIV 0 700 31

enemy attack in south night 30/31 aug (.) MG school being postponed under separate orders and personnel returned to units (.) 9 aust div cav will arrange for all tks to be manned and ready for action but tks at cav school may remain present area (.) preliminary arrangements for relief of 24 bde by 26 bde may proceed but the relief will not take place without further instns (.) 1 SA div are cooperating with op BULIMBA with fire on MITEIRIYA ridge (.) BULIMBA will be carried out night 31 aug/1 sep (.) 24 bde will arrange for 2/32 bn to relieve 2/15 bn 2/32 bn coming under comd 20 bde and 2/28 bn to relieve 2/32 bn (.) no move of 2/32 and 2/28 bns beyond rd junc 87752941 before 2400 hrs by which time RAA will complete movement of amn vehs (.) both reliefs to be completed in hrs of darkness (.) tac 9 aust div opens 88792942 2200 hrs 31 aug

88752941
88752941
except

IMMEDIATE SDR to all except :-
 30 Corps, Ord, Adm Area T00 1145
 By any means except W/T
 in clear
Robertson Maj

281/535/1

SECRET

APPX 'A'

(Issued in conjunction with 9 Aust Div OO No17 dated 23

To supersede instns issued in 9 Aust Div
G 658/60/5 of 26 Aug 42.

NOTED	
CO	(2.)
Z/c	
Adj.	
QM.	
M.O.	
I.O.	
T.O.	
R.S.A.	

AIR SP - BULIMBA

A. The following Air Sp is being provided by RAF

1. F Cover

- (a) Over the 2/15 Bn objective 871297, 872297, 872296 871296. One sqn sortie to cover the debouching of the raiding force. At call from 0700 hrs (estimated delay 45 mins)
- (b) With Tac R as in para 2 (b) below.

2. Tac R

- (a) At 0830 hrs unless amended or cancelled.
One Tac R sortie with F escort.
- (b) When called for during late morning or early afternoon (estimated delay 1½ hrs).
One Tac R sortie with F escort.

3. Further Air Sp may be provided on request but will be dependent on air requirements for the main battle and may take the form of:-

- (a) F sweeps returning from the main battle area - if called for.
- (b) B sp - (estimated delay 1½ hrs) if called for.

4. SOS Tasks

Additional Air Sp may be provided in emergency. This will not be asked for unless the situation demands this action, preferably through Div HQ.

5. Identification Raiding Party

- (a) Roundels will be on all vehs.
- (b) All vehs will carry the blue identification flag.
- (c) On the approach of friendly aircraft red smoke candles will be lit in addition to the firing of red verrey lights. (A further supply of candles is being obtained).

6. Bomblines

- (a) The bomblines will be for 2/15 Bn only.
- (b) The raiding force will identify itself as in para 5(c).
- (c) Opening bomblines 87523043 - 87343024 - 87002987 - 87002950 - 87292950.

6. Bombline (cont)

(d) Changes in bombline will be made through the Air Sp Tentacle and a local bombline given with each request for Air Sp.

7. Infm to RAF

The following infm will be passed to the RAF through the tentacle:-

- (a) Calls for Air Sp as in paras 1 to 4.
- (b) Reports of any enemy air action in the area.
- (c) Changes in bombline.
- (d) The movements of the raiding coln by means of the following code.

Trig 29 868300 MUSTARD

SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN RAZOR

Track junc at 860295 GIN

2/15 Bn objective BEEF

Example:- "Coln RAZOR next GIN hrs"
Meaning Coln near SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN moving on track junc at 860294 probably arrive hrs.

8. Recce area Tac R.

GHAZAL STA 852310 - SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN 865308 - TELL EL EISA
STA 876299 - KILO 9 QATTARA RD 876291 - DEIR EL DHIB 873286 -
ALAM EL BILUSIYAT 860286 - DEIR EL MURRA 852293 - GHAZAL STA.

9. General Task:

To give the location and general composition of enemy forces moving towards 2/15 Bn objective and or the raiding force.

Intercomm

10. Tac R Reports

- (a) Urgent infm will be dropped at the V sign 87662991
- (b) Remaining infm - normal procedure.

11. Ground to Air

- (a) V sign located at 87662991 with apex towards the enemy.
- (b) At ETA 6 red smoke candles will be lit at the V sign irrespective of whether aircraft are seen or not.
- (c) A further six will be lit when the aircraft are sighted.

ACKNOWLEDGE

P. B. M. C. Capl
Col, (d)
GS 9 Aust Div.

DISTRIBUTION :-

as for OO No 17.

Bulimba

A2

PROFORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO :- 20 AUST INF BDE : 24 AUST INF BDE : 26 AUST INF BDE :
9 AUST DIV CAV REGT : RAA : RAE : SIGS : 2/2 AUST MG BN :
B SQN 40 RTR : G SQN RGH : G : AQ

FROM :- MAIN 9 AUST DIV 0688 30 ----

SECRET (.) ~~ref~~ 0687 of 30 aug (.) for BULIMBA only appx A to
9 aust div 00 17 of 23 aug still stands and RED smoke will be
used

except W/T in clear ELS TOO 1500

Capt
Capt

X Produce
Fav

NOTED	
C.O.	.....
2i/c	.....
Adj.	.....
Q M.	.....
M.O.	.....
I.O.	.....
T.O.	.....
R. S. M.	.....

1
2
3
4

230

295/15/5

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

NOTED	
C.O.	.....
2 i/c	.....
Adj.	..... 700
Q.M.	.....
M.O.	.....
I.O.	.....
T.O.	.....
B/S.M.	.....

1
2
3
4

TO :- 20 AUST INF BDE 24 AUST INF BDE 26 AUST INF BDE
 9 AUST DIV CAV REGT RAA RAE SIGS
 B SQN 40 RTR G SQN RGH G AQ

FROM :- MAIN 9 AUST DIV 0 687 30

SECRET (.) ground to air recognition signal is now
 GREEN smoke and/or letter D rptd D with aldis lamp

..... *Capt* ELS T00 1200

Flow—

Originator's No.

Date

5/27

A3

	MESSAGE	FORM
2/13 Aust Inf Bn	9 Aust A Wk Hty	Comm
2/13 Aust Inf Bn	2/3 Aust Pd Coy	BM
2/17 Aust Inf Bn	"B" Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	SC
9 Aust Coy Regt	AAA	TS
"B" Sqn 40 RTR	2/2 Aust MG Bn	IO
One Sqn RTR	9 Aust Div	Sup O
2/7 Aust Pd Regt	24 Aust Inf Bde	LO's
4 Aust Lt AA Regt	20 Aust Inf Bde	File
		War Diary

From : HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde : Originators No : Date
 : Q 205 : 25

ref	20 Aust Inf Bde	operation	order	No 19	(.)
first	(.)	fwd	AF	containing complete	
2nd	line	refill	all	arms	is
being	established	at	88102983	(.)	second
(.)	fwd	rec	post	is	being
established	area	88022970	(.)		

Weyburn Capt. : UNCLASSIFIED : PRIORITY : T. O. D.
 : : : 1330

NOTED	
C.O.	_____
21/c	<i>W</i> _____
Adj.	<i>W</i> _____
Q.M.	_____
M.O.	_____
I.O.	_____
T.O.	_____
R.S.M.	_____

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No. 3

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

NOTED

C.O. 1

2i/c 2

Adj. 3 *700*

Q.M. 4

M.O.

I.O.

T.O.

No. of Groups. OFFICE DATE STAMP
GR.

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

47 A REG. RAA 2/2 AUST MC BN 2/3 AUST *24 AUST INF BDE 26 AUST INF BDE 9 AUST DIV*

FROM

H.Q. 20 AUST INF BDE

Originator's Number

9209

Date

26

In Reply to Number

ref

our

9208

of

25

0

complete forward

second A.P.

line use

refill for

amm. forces

at detailed

in para

20 9 "A"

AUST only.

INF

BDE

0019

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

1730

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

1900

T.O.R.

SIGNED

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER
<i>P</i>	<i>2345</i>	<i>25</i>									

Wt. 32412/1098. 750M. 12/40. P.I. 51-8146.

248/55/1 (ack. fav.)

G15/7/475.

SECRET

NOTED	
Copy No.	1
24 Aug 47	2
Adj.	3
C.M.	
M.O.	
I.O.	4
T.O.	
R.S.M.	

20 AUST INF BDE - OPERATION ORDER NO. 19

Ref Maps: EL ALAMEIN : 1:50,000.
EL DABA - EL ALAMEIN : 1:100,000.

INFORMATION:

1. The enemy is expected to attack on EIGHTH ARMY front during the moonlight period between 25 Aug and 1 Sep.
2. A Bn raid, similar to that envisaged in this order, is being prepared by 2 NZ Div as immediate counter stroke to the enemy attack, or as a diversion prior to the enemy attack.
3. Enemy disposns are set out in a special summary issued in conjunction with this order.
4. 9 Aust Div Cav Regt recce and other normal activity south of TELL EL EISA is continuing to prevent arousing suspicion.
5. Tac HQ, 9 Aust Div, will be established at 88792942 during time of raid.
6. If raid is ordered 2/32 Aust Inf Bn is taking over posn now occupied by 2/15 Aust Inf Bn and comes under comd 20 Aust Inf Bde.
7. Additional tps under comd:

One sqn (less four tps) 9 Aust Div Cav Regt.
 One sqn 40 RTR.
 One sqn RTR (CRUSADERS).
 One tp 13 Bty, 2/7 Aust Fd Regt.
 One tp 4 Aust LAA Regt.
 9 Aust A.Tk Bty.
 One sec 2/13 Aust Fd Coy.
 "B" Coy (less one pl) 2/2 Aust MG Bn.

INTENTION:

8. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn, with tps under comd, will raid vicinity West Pt 23 and enemy localities and communications further west.

METHOD:

9. Composition of Raiding Force:

Comd - Lt-Col R.W.G. OGLE, Comd 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.

(a) 2/15 Aust Inf Bn, with, under comd :-

One sqn (less four tps) 9 Aust Div Cav Regt.
 One sqn 40 RTR.
 One sqn RTR (CRUSADERS).
 One tp 13 Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt.
 One tp 4 Aust Lt AA Regt.
 9 A.Tk Bty (less one tp).
 One sec 2/13 Aust Fd Coy.
 "B" Coy (less one pl) 2/2 Aust MG Bn.

....2.

M E T H O D (Contd).

9. Composition of Raiding Force (Contd):

(b) Exploiting Det of Raiding Force:

Comd - Major A.E. McINTYRE - 9 Aust Div Cav Regt.

One sqn (less four tps) 9 Aust Div Cav Regt.

One sqn RTR.

One tp 13 Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt.

Two tps A.Tk guns (one tp 9 Aust A.Tk Bty;
A.Tk Pl 2/15 Aust Inf Bn).

One pl inf, 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.

Det RA E.

10. The op will be carried out under detailed orders of Comd Raiding Force to achieve the following :-

Phase I:

2/15 Aust Inf Bn will seize and hold at "first light" the enemy defences in the vicinity of enemy Pt 23 (87252969) as a "firm base" for further ops.

Phase II:

Exploiting force will debouch through "firm base" and raid localities and communications running south from SIDI EL RAHMAN; returning to own lines at 1500 hrs same day.

Phase III:

Entire force will be withdrawn into present FDLs at last light, on day of raid.

11. Zero:

All preparations will be completed before night 25/26 Aug, after which the raid may be ordered.

12. Notice:

(a) Notice of raid will be given to Comd of Raiding Force NOT later than 2030 hrs on eve of the attack.

(b) Comd Raiding Force will be responsible for orders to all tps under comd.

13. Arty:

(a) Fd:

RA A, 9 Aust Div, is supporting the op by timed concentrations and observed fire under control of CRA. Task tables are being issued separately.

(b) A.Tk:

(i) 9 Aust A.Tk Bty is being relieved in its present posns and, on relief, will come under comd 2/15 Aust Inf Bn for the op.

(ii) CO, 2/3 Aust A.Tk Regt, is co-ord all A.Tk def within the present FDLs.

METHOD (Contd).

14. Raid:

1 Sec 2/15 Aust Fd Coy, under command of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn for the op, will be responsible for :-

- (i) Assisting in the lifting of enemy minefields during the initial attack.
- (ii) Supplying Bangalore Torpedoes and other RE stores required by 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.
- (iii) Providing Demolition Dets working with the exploiting force.

15. Minefields:

- (a) Gaps will be covered and carefully marked by 2/13 Aust Fd Coy during the night prior to the attack at the following places :-

87592988
87532976

87532971
87532970

- (b) Personnel of 2/13 Aust Fd Coy will man all the above gaps during the entire period of the raid and be responsible for closing gaps on orders from CO, 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.
- (c) Old enemy minefields in vicinity of SANDY KNOLL (87462976) will be raised by 2/17 Aust Inf Bn during night 24/25 Aug 42.

16. MGs:

- (a) 1st Coy, 2/2 Aust MG Bn (less one pl) - tasks as ordered by CO, 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.
- (b) Guns now in areas fwd coys 2/17 and 2/43 Aust Inf Bns will be supporting attack by flanking fire under orders CO, 2/2 Aust MG Bn.

17. Mortars:

- (a) Two 81mm mortars (Italian) without dets are being provided by 26 Aust Inf Bde and will be picked up by 2/15 Aust Inf Bn by 1800 hrs 24 Aug 42.
- (b) 2/13 and 2/17 Aust Inf Bns will each make available to 2/15 Aust Inf Bn :-

one 81mm mortar and crew.
one spare crew.

These dets will come under comd 2/15 Aust Inf Bn for the op and report status required by 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.

- (c) Lieut L.P. DEWAN (2/13 Aust Inf Bn) will comd the 81mm Pl and report 2/15 Aust Inf Bn 1800 hrs 24 Aug.

A D M (Contd).

22. Reallotment of Tpt (Contd):

(b) The following vehs will report to 2/15 Aust Inf Bn at 1000 hrs 25 Aug 42 under arrangements made by 9 Aust Div :-

26 Bde - 3 x 3 ton CAS (4 wheel drive).

2 x 2 ton SPA.

(c) G 1033's will be held by each unit.

23. Rec:

(a) A representative of 58 Aust LAD will be available to phone at "B" Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.

(b) 58 Aust LAD will establish a rec post in B Coy area 2/17 Aust Inf Bn at TELL EL EISA Sta.

24. P.W.:

(a) 2/17 Aust Inf Bn will construct a fwd PW Cage in the vicinity of the police post on Main Coast Rd (88713000). This cage will not be built until the night of the op.

(b) Personnel of 9 Aust Div Pro Sec, as detailed, will be responsible for marshalling and counting at fwd P.W.C.P.

(c) 2/15 Aust Inf Bn will be responsible for PW back to SANDY KNOLL at 87462976 where 2/17 Aust Inf Bn will take over and clear to CP.

(d) Sec 1 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn with two 30cwt vehs will be responsible for evacuation to Div Cage at 89132932.

25. RE Stores:

2/17 Aust Inf Bn will deliver 20 short handle picks to 2/15 Aust Inf Bn by 0900 hrs 25 Aug 42.

26. Medical:

2/8 Aust Fd Amb is establishing A.D.S. - location and details later.

I N T E R C O M M N.

27. HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde remains present location.

28. L/T:

Duplicate lines will be maintained fwd to 2/15 Aust Inf Bn by "J" Sec Sigs.

29. W/T and R/T:

(a) Wireless silence until ZERO, by 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.

(b) A No. 11 Wireless Set will be provided for CO 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.

....6.

IN

INTERCOMN (Contd).

29. W/T and R/T (Contd):

(c) No.18 sets of "D" and "C" Coys 2/17 Aust Inf Bn will be "netted in" to same frequencies as coys of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn. These sets will keep constant watch during op and report to Bde by L/T should all other means of communication between 2/15 Aust Inf Bn and Bde HQ break down.

30. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn Runners:

Runners from 2/15 Aust Inf Bn with urgent messages for Bde HQ will report to "C" Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn (at 87602975) or "B" Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn (TELL EL EISA Sta) where any messages will be transmitted by L/T to Bde HQ.

31. Codewords:

(a) The codeword for the op will be "BULIMBA". On receipt of this codeword tps will RV as follows :-

Those under comd - As ordered by CO, 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.

Those in support - As ordered by respective comds.

(b) The following codewords will be used in messages :-

<u>Place</u>	<u>Codeword.</u>
TELL EL EISA Sta (87612991)	CHEESE.
BARREL HILL (87542972)	BARREL.
PIMPLE (87592982)	PIMPLE.
SANDY KNOLL (87462976)	SANDY.
WEST FT.23 (87252969)	BEEF.
TRIG 29 (86823008) ✓	MUSTARD.
SKYLINE TRACK (running approx SE along dark 25 metre contour line about 868 grid line)	SKYLINE.
Main SW Track from SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN	ONIONS.
SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN (86553085)	RAZOR.

32. Synchronization:

By B.B.C. time signal 2100 hrs, daily.

....7.

ack. 1130. 25 Aug 42.
251/55/1

SECRET

A4

Copy No. 20

24 Aug 42.

2/15 AUST INF BN OPERATIONAL ORDER NO.10

Ref Maps EL ALAMEIN 1:50000
EL HIQEAF 1:50000
GHALAL 1:50000

NOTED	
C.O.	4/1
2/c	4/1
Adj.	7/11
G.M.	
M.O.	
I.O.	
T.O.	
R.S.M.	

INFORMATION

Enemy

1. The enemy is expected to attack on EIGHTH ARMY front during the moonlight period during 25 Aug and 1 Sep.
2. Patrol 2/13 Bn night 14/15 Aug located enemy strong post at 87182977. Further observation over area has indicated that the main post is at 87212977, marked by two derlict vehs in the wire. The post is strongly wired with triple danner as is also a post at 87222981 and pt 23 (87242969). All posts are interconnected with wire on long pickets.
3. Arty has registered on known strong posts in squares 871298 and in 871297. Patrols have met outposts fwd of these posts. These posts are confirmed by aerial photographs.
4. In other sectors booby traps have been discovered and care should be exercised in approaching enemy FDLs.
5. Own Tps
A-Bn raid similar to that envisaged in this order is being prepared by 2 NZ Div as immediate counter stroke to enemy attack or as a diversion prior to enemy attack.

Additional tps under Comd

- 1 Sqn (less 4 Tps) 9 Aust Div Cav Regt
- B Sqn 40 R T R
- 1 Sqn R T R (Crusaders)
- 1 Tp B Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt
- 1 Tp 4 Aust Lt A A Regt
- 9 Aust A Tk Bty
- 1 Sec 2/13 Aust Fd Coy
- B Coy (less 1 Pl) 2/2 Aust MG Bn

INTENTION

7. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn with tps under comd will raid vicinity west Pt 23 (87252969) and enemy localities and communications farther west.

METHOD

8. COMPOSITION OF RAIDING FORCE

- (a) ATTACKING FORCE
2/15 Aust Inf Bn (less 7 Pl, less 1 Sec carrier, less 1 Tx Pl)
B Sqn 40 R T R.
1 Tp 4 Aust Lt AA Regt.
9 Aust A Tk Bty (less 1 tp)
1 Sec 2/13 Aust Fd Coy (less dots)
B Coy (less 1 pl) 2/2 MG Bn

/EXPLOITATION DET

8. (b) EXPLOITATION DET

- Comd - Maj. A. E. McINTYRE - 9 Aust Div Cav Regt
 1 Sqn (less 4 Tps) 9 Aust Div Cav Regt
 1 Sqn R.T.R. (Crusaders)
 1 Tp 13 Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt
 2 Tps A/Tk guns (1 tp 6 pdr from 9 Aust
 A/Tk Bty)
 (1 Pl 2/pdr 2/5 Bn)
- Det 2/13 Fd Coy
 7 Pl A Coy
 1 Soc carriers
 1 motor Amb (8 Fd Amb)

9. The op will be carried out in the following phases

PHASE I

ATTACKING FORCE will seize and hold at "First Light" the enemy defences in the vicinity of Pt 23 (87252969) as a firm base for further ops.

PHASE II

EXPLOITING FORCE will pass through the "Firm Base" and raid localities and communications running South from SIDI EL RAHMAN, returning to "Firm Base" by 1500 hrs same day.

PHASE III

Entire force will be withdrawn into present FDLs on day of raid.

10. DATE OF OP

Preparation will be completed before night 25/26 Aug.

11. WARNING

- (a) Warning of raid will be received NOT later than 2030 hrs on the night before the attack.
- (b) An LO from each of the units under comd will call at HQ 2/15 Bn at 2030 hrs 25 Aug and each night following.

12. ARTY

- (a) Fd
 RAA 9 Aust Div is supporting the op by timed concentrations and observed fire as follows:-

Ser No.	Area	Timings	Remarks
1	Enemy wire between 87212977 and 87242971	Zero plus 15 to Zero plus 20	
2	Strongpost area from 87192975 to 87182971	Zero plus 20 to Zero plus 34	
3	Strongpost area from 87182977 to 87102973	Zero plus 20 to Zero plus 34	
4	Strongpost area 87162983 to 87102987	Zero plus 35 to Zero plus 75	After Ser 3 1 Bty ea. Regt on observed fire, remainder on task 4. Proportion smoke

- (b) Areas which include enemy O.Ps north of ry and areas South of objective are to be smoked from Zero plus 15.
- (c) Arty LO (Maj. JOHNSON) and one F.O.O. each Regt accompany ATTACKING FORCE. One F.O.O. is to accompany EXPLOITING DET.

13.

Mortars

Four 81 mm mortars (Italian) under comd Lieut. A.P. BEVAN (2/13 Aust Inf Bn) will sp the attack by concentrations on strongpost area 87162983 to 87102987 from Zero plus 15 to Zero plus 75.
Rate Zero plus 15 to Zero plus 25 at r.p.g. thereafter at 2 r.p.g.
200 rds additional am to be available at weapons for assistance during withdrawal if required.

14.

Med MG

- (a) One Pl (Lieut. FERGUSON) will sp attack fire by fire from right flank onto strongpost area 87182982 to 87122987 from Zero plus 15 to Zero plus 75. Additional am to be with guns for assistance during withdrawal if required. In addition pl will be prepared to move fwd for reorganisation if ordered.
- (b) One pl (Lieut. LAVAN) will r.v. in area behind PIMPLE about 87622982 and be ready to move fwd for reorganisation.

15.

A Tk Guns

16.

Lt AA will assemble in area 87622978 and accompany attacking force.

17.

Engrs will be responsible for:-

- (a) Locating, making and marking gaps in enemy minefields with ing assistance. Minimum of three gaps required.
- (b) Making gaps in enemy wire with Bangalore torpedoes. Minimum of three gaps are required.
- (c) Assisting inf to lay Hawkins minefields during reorganisation.
- (d) Providing demolition dets working with the EXPLOITING DET.
- (e) Making and marking gaps in own minefields to permit egress of tanks and vehicles.

18.

Tanks (ATTACKING FORCE)

- (a) Will proceed to Assembly area about 87602975 during the night prior to the raid. Route :-
MERSA MATRUH Rd to gap 87992963 thence along track direct to Assembly area.
- (b) Starting Line about 87552980 to 87562974.

18.

- (c) Direction of Attack 264 degrees GRID
- (d) Time Crossing S.L. = Zero plus 15.
- (e) Task - To sp by fire the breaking of enemy minefield and infantry attack on the objective.

19.

Inf

- (a) Fwd Coys

C Coy	Right
D Coy	Left
- (b) Res Coys

A Coy (less 7 Pl)	Right
B Coy	Left
- (c) Frontage

Bn	- 600 yds)	See App A.
Each Coy	- 250 yds)	
Between Secs	- 50 yds)	
- (d) Objectives Pointed out on ground.
- (e) Starting Line 87462979 to 87472973. To be marked by tape by I Sec.
- (f) Direction of Attack 264 degrees GRID.
- (g) Rate of Advance 75 yds in a minute.
- (h) Action on reaching objective - B Coy will exploit Southwards after passing through enemy wire to capture Pt. 23. C Coy to capture strongpoint extending westward to 87122973.
- (j) Hawkins Mines
C and A Coys will detail party to assist engr to lay Hawkins minefields from approx 87202973 to 87122973 to 87082970.
- (k) Tools carried on man
Each sec will carry one pick and one shovel on the man. Each man will carry two sandbags.
- (l) Reorganisation will be effected immediately with the object of holding the base until nightfall. Fullest possible use will be made of enemy diggings. Tps should be reminded that in the event of tanks penetrating the posn, their best defence is to remain in slit trenches and to allow the tanks to pass over them. Every opportunity will be taken to knock out tanks with S.T. and 73 Grenaded.
- (m) Mortars - One sec under comd each B, C, and A Coys
All to move fwd with Coys Stores trucks.
- (n) Carrier Pl (less one sec) Move from assembly area at Zero plus 15 along right flank of the advance. Be prepared to engage strongpoint between DERELICT TRUCKS 87222973 and any other enemy n.g. posts which is holding up advance of tanks
Two carriers to remain on eastern side of enemy minefield and return to starting line to act as guides for first line vehs fwd to the minefield gaps.
Each carrier to carry 25 sandbags, 3 picks, 3 shovels, 1 case S.T. grenades.
One Sec to follow tks through gaps and assist B Coy to capture pt. 23.

20. ZERO will be approx 30 mins before first light. Exact time will be notified by signal.

21. Inf will be lifted from present area to Assembly Area about 37522932 by tp carrying MT during the night prior to the attack.

ADM

22.

Amn

Each rifleman will carry 100 rds SAA and two grenades 36. Each sec will carry all TSMG mag filled and 12 Bren mags.

23.

Amn reserve will be carried on En SAA truck and also distributed amongst all Coy Stores trucks.

24.

Rations

One days battle rations will be carried by each man. Emergency rations will be checked on night prior to attack.

25.

Water bottles will be filled before departure from present areas.

26.

En Tpt

Distribution as arranged at conference.

27.

Medical

RAP estab about 37552973. Entry through gap in minefield at telephone line 37542975.

28.

Trucks to be provided for conveyance casualties from BASE to RAP.

29.

One motor amb to accompany EXPLOITING DET.

30.

One fwd RAP det under medical Sgt to move with attacking GP to objective.

31.

Fd Amb not to proceed to Pt 23 area unless requested by CO Raiding Party.

32.

Rec.

- (a) A representative 58 LAD will be available to phone at B Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
- (b) 58 Aust LAD will estab a rec point in B Coy area 2/17 Aust Inf Bn at TELL EL EISA Stn.

33.

P.W.

- (a) 2/15 Aust Inf Bn will escort prisoners back to SANDY HOLE (rear starting line) where they will be handed over to 9 Aust Div Pro Coy.
- (b) One spare truck will accompany EXPLOITING DET for prisoners.

EMERCOMN

34.

BN HQ will move on axis of attack with A Coy. On moving through enemy wire, will establish as close to original axis as possible. Marked by 80 sign on unpainted tin.

35.

Coys will send two runners to BN HQ as soon as it is estab. One runner will return to Coy HQ.

/36 One Sig

- 36. One Sig each Coy will carry set of flags. One MC-DR
- 37. each from Mortar and Carrier Pls will report BN HQ after passing through enemy wire,
- 38. All lines from BN HQ to Coys will be duplicated.
- 39. 20 Aust Inf Bde is running duplicate lines fwd to the objective.
- 40. No. 18 Sets will be carried fwd with Coys. Sets at C and D Coys 2/17 BN are being netted in.
- 41. No. 11 Set with CO's carrier to be linked with that of Comd. EXPLOITING DET, B Sqn Com RTR, 20 Aust Inf Bde.
- 42. Sigs will follow attacking tps with line from vehicle park to enable order to be passed back for sending fwd of trucks when objective is captured.
- 43. one 18 Set will also remain at vehicle park.
- 44. Pl MMG (Lieut. FERGUSON) will run line to VEHICLE PARK and tee into 81 mm mortar post.
- 45. TO will remain at VEHICLE PARK to receive messages from fwd area and send vehicles fwd as requested.
- 46. Synchronisation of watches by BBC time signal 2100 hrs daily.
- 47. Code Words

(a) The code word for the op will be "BULIMBA". On receipt of this code word tps will r.v. as follows:-

Those under comd - as ordered by CO 2/15 Aust Inf Bn
 Those in support - as ordered by respective comds.

(b) The following code words will be used in messages:-

<u>Place</u>	<u>Codeword</u>
TELL EL EISA STA (87612991)	CHEESE
BARREL HILL (87542972)	BARREL
PIMPLE (87592982)	PIMPLE
SANDY KNOLL (87462976)	SANDY
WEST PT 23 (87252960)	BEEF
TRIG 29 (86323003)	MUSTARD
SKYLINE TRACK (running approx S E along dark 25 metre contour line about 068 GRID line)	SKYLINE
Main SW track from SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN	ONIONS
SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN (86553085)	RAZOR.

- 48. Air Sp - Intelligence Sec will carry Ground indicator, smoke signals and ground strips and will be responsible for placing in posn when called for by planes. Call by planes will be two Green Verrey lights. This is to be replied to by fwd Coys firing one White Verrey light.
- 49. Final conference at BN HQ 2/15 Aust Inf Bn 87913002 at 1400 hrs 25 Aug. To be attended by all Comds, TO and I.O.

ACK

see Harland

(M. HARLAND) Capt.

Time of Signature 0400 hrs Adj. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn

Method of Issue-DR & Ord.

DISTRIBUTIONAPPX A

A Coy	Copy No. 1	att
B	Copy No. 2	att
C	Copy No. 3	att
D	Copy No. 4	att
HQ	Copy No. 5	att
Sigs	Copy No. 6	att
Comd	Copy No. 7	att
2 i/c	Copy No. 8	att
Adjt	Copy No. 9	att
QM & TO	Copy No. 10	
RMO (for perusal by Padre)	Copy No. 11	
Sqn 9 Aust Div Cav Regt	Copy No. 12	
B Sqn 40 RTR	Copy No. 13	att
Sqn RTR (Crusaders)	Copy No. 14	
RAA 9 Aust Div	Copy No. 15	
2/7 Fd Regt	Copy No. 16	
4 Lt AA Bty	Copy No. 17	
9 Aust A/Tk Bty	Copy No. 18	
2/13 Fd Coy	Copy No. 19	att
2/2 MG Bn	Copy No. 20	
B Coy 2/2 MG Bn	Copy No. 21, 22	
20 Aust Inf Bde	Copy No. 23, 24	att
2/13 Bn	Copy No. 25, 26	
2/17 Bn	Copy No. 27	
2/8 Fd Amb	Copy No. 28	
File (for perusal IO & RSM)	Copy No. 29	att
War Diary	Copy No. 30, 31	att
Spare	Copy No. 32	att
Carriers	Copy No. 33	att

10/1

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

Bulimba

TO :- 20 AUST INF BDE 24 AUST INF BDE 26 AUST INF BDE
 9 AUST DIV CAV REGT RAA RAE SIGS 2/2 AUST MG BN
 B SQN 40 RTR AASC MEDICAL CMI ORD Copy to :- Q

FROM :- TAC 9 AUST DIV 0 159 1

9 aust div cav and B sqn 40 RTR revert to roles and locations allotted prior to BULIMBA (.) 2/15 bn moves to res posn in EL ALAMEIN comes under comd 24 bde remains adm comd 20 bde (.) under arrangements CRA and CO 2/2 MG bn following will be withdrawn during night 1/2 sep from 20 and 24 bde resources

- (a) into div res ALAMEIN one a/tk bty one MG coy (.)
 - (b) to come under comd 26 bde one tp 12 a/tk bty
-

NOTED	
C.O.	.....
2i/c	.....
Adjt.	.....
Q.M.	.....
M.O.	.....
L.O.	.....
T.O.	.....
R.S.M.	.....

IMMEDIATE

To 20 & 24 Bdes, Cav)
 & B Sqn 40 RTR) By LO

26 Bde, MG Sigs, RAA)
 RAE, AASC, Medical, Q) SDR TOO 1535

Ord *Barham*) E.L.S

Maj.

NOTED

C.O. *[initials]*
 2/c. *[initials]*
 Adj. *[initials]*
 Q.M. *[initials]*
 M.O. *[initials]*
 I.O. *[initials]*
 T.O. *[initials]*
 R.S.M. *[initials]*

MESSAGE FORM.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN

OUT

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 20 HUST INF BDE 24 HUST INF BDE RPA SIGS 2/2 HUST MG. BN and HASC

FROM MAIN 9 HUST DIV

Originator's Number.

0728

Date.

2

In Reply to Number

2/15	and	2/32	Bns.	revert	to
Command	20	and	24	Bdes.	and
return	to	own	Bde.	sectors	under
mutual	arrangements		Bdes.	during	night
2-3	SEPT	⊙	Bdes.	will	report
arrangement	for	moves	and	times	Command
of	Bn.	passes			

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS:

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY.

important

TIME OF ORIGIN

1540

SIGNED

SIGNED (BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

1555

T.O.R.

173

SYSTEM IN.	TIME IN.	READER.	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER.	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER.	SENDER.
R	1605	R	RD								

MESSAGE FORM

AS

Serial No.
Office Date Stamp

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN
OUT

No. of Groups.
GR.

NOTED

C.O. _____
 21/c _____
 Adj _____
 Q.M. _____
 M.O. _____
 I.O. _____
 T.O. _____
 R.S.M. _____

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 2/2 AUST M G BN

FROM Tac 9 Aust Div

Originator's Number: 0 155
 Date: 1
 In Reply to Number:

SITREP	0900	.	Quiet	night	.
0500	attack	started	on	Pt	23
map	ref	872296	.	0700	gained
objective	.	PW	from	I	and
III	Bns	382	IR	number	not
definitely	known	.	Some	ITALIAN	PW

This message may be sent **As Written** by any means
 *(except) (.....) Wireless

This message must be sent **In Cipher** if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands

Originator's Instructions
 Degree of Priority

Time of Origin

Signature.....

Signature.....

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including"

(Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.
Office Date Stamp

No. of Groups.
GR.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM

(2)

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

no	identification	yet	.	Enemy	counter
attacking	fighting	still	going	on	.
Our	bombers	heavily	bombed	enemy	veh
concentrations	area	ROGIL	in	South	all
night	shuttle	service	.	S A	DIV
report	raids	.	Capture	6	GERMAN

This message may be sent **As Written** by any means
*(except)
(.....) Wireless

This message must be sent **In Cipher** if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time of Origin

Signature.....

Signature.....

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including"

(Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.
Office Date Stamp

No. of Groups.
GR.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM

(3)

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

PW	other	casualties	inflicted	.	Movement
and	gunflashes	0650	NE	ROGIL	.
all	informed				

This message may be sent **As Written** by any means
*(except)
(.....) Wireless

This message must be sent **In Cipher** if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time of Origin
1030

Signature.....

Signature.....

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including"

(Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

T.H.I. 1045

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender
P	1110	SRR	LJS	0							

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No. 16
Office Date Stamp

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

6/1

NOTED

C.O. *[initials]*
 2 i/c *[initials]*
 Adj. *[initials]*
 Q.M. *[initials]*
 M.O. *[initials]*
 I.O. *[initials]*
 T.O. *[initials]*
 P.S.M. *[initials]* Date *[initials]*

TO

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

2/2 Aust MG Bn

FROM

TAC 9 AVST DIV

Originator's Number

0154

Date

1

In Reply to Number

Strip to 1230 hrs 0 Our troops withdrawn from west point 23 to former FDLSC. Casualties were inflicted on enemy and I heard 90 german PW attached unable to open passage and raiding wh. did not go out. In the south

This message may be sent **As Written** by any means
*(except)
(.....) Wireless

This message must be sent **In Cipher** if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time of Origin

Signature.....

Signature.....

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including"

(Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No. 16

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS	IN	No. of Groups. GR.	Office Date Stamp
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 001206

FROM	Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
-------------	---------------------	------	--------------------

main enemy	troops directed towards	GABBAR	431891 and ALAM
GIBBEL BEIN	891278	No enemy reported	North 848
BAO S HAZA	nothing or east	435	eastern
or south	of 860 nothing	Dwn	troops in contact
all if	all if	all if	all if

This message may be sent As Written by any means *(except) (.....) Wireless	This message must be sent In Cipher if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands	Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority	Time of Origin <div style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">1305</div>
Signature.....	Signature.....		

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including" (Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender
P	1350	J. Klein	WJB.								

T.H.I.
1330

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No. *22*
Office Date Stamp

No. of Groups.
GR.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN *7/1*
OUT *P*

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

2/2 MB Bn

FROM

TAC 9 and DIV

Originator's Number

0 158

Date

1

In Reply to Number

<i>TAC</i>	<i>H.Q</i>	<i>closes</i>	<i>present</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>1530</i>
<i>Ans</i>					

This message may be sent **As Written** by any means
*(except)
(.....) Wireless

This message must be sent **In Cipher** if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time of Origin

1500

Signature.....

Signature.....

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including"

(Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

T.H.I.

1505

T.O.R.

1515

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender
<i>P</i>	<i>1516</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>									

5/2

~~Marked~~

AL

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO:- 20 AUST INF BDE 24 AUST INF BDE 26 AUST INF BDE
 9 AUST DIV CAV REGT RAA RAE SIGS 2/2 AUST MG BN ✓
 B SQN 40 RTR - (20 Bde please pass) 1 SA DIV
 3 SA BDE 23 ARMD BDE Q A CAMP CAMP REAR HQ
 AASC 9 AUST DIV MEDICAL ORD DAPM PRO
 B SEC FSS FILE WAR DIARY

FROM:- MAIN 9 AUST DIV 0 721 1

 following minefield gaps closed 87602958 87702948
 87832938 (.) gaps opened at 87582961 87692950
 87792942

P. J. White

Capt

ELS

TOO 2100

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

2/2 Aust MG Bn

WAR DIARY

SEPTEMBER, 1942

"BULIMBA" OPSSUMMARY BY LIEUT G.T.FERGUSON

B3 Pl moved out from our FDLs at 2359 on night 31/1 Sep, digging in about one mile out. In the first phase we supported the attack by fire on enemy a/tk guns sited just at the right of the objective. We had 3 trucks for the purpose, and the entire Pl, which made a fairly large party.

The Pl was divided into two separate groups. In the party ahead there was one group on either flank and one in the centre, with myself, while Sjt Mackay was slightly in rear keeping contact with the trucks, and the balance of the Pl following behind with the vehs.

We were just about at the posn selected when we encountered an enemy patrol. At the time we believed them to be Italians. Cpls Albertson and Ward opened fire, the former with a TSMG and Cpl Ward with his rifle, from either flank. Cries were heard, and the enemy appeared to be on their backs, firing pistols wildly into the air. Immediately the enemy opened fire with Spandaus and 2" mortars, together with a considerable amount of SA fire, but towards our vehs, which apparently were slightly skylined from the enemy posts. Cpl Albertson believes that at least 3 casualties were caused to the enemy patrol, but nothing was seen of them afterwards.

The Pl made no attempt to engage the enemy, as their purpose was to get into position for the attack, not prejudice it by a premature exchange of fire. It was now about 0100 and we posted our flank guards and got to work. In the brief engagement we suffered some casualties, Bob Mitchell was killed by a Spandau bullet through the head. He was with Sjt Mackay's party, in which Don Guard was hit in the knee and Len Welch in the leg. In addition light shrapnel wounds were received by Ptes D.C. Mitchell and Fred Pereira on the hands.

Lieut FERGUSON selected positions and the Sec Comds got busy putting guns in. OPs were selected, and Pte Hanratty established an Aid Post. Sjt Mackay took Signalman Tom WHITTAKER back with him, running out the sig wire 1,600 yds to Pl HQ. Sgmn Whittaker then had to walk back to our posns, alone. He arrived about 0430 hrs, after completing the laying of his wire.

Later in the operation Sgmn WHITTAKER had to repair his line, which had been broken by shellfire. He had to walk 1500 yds to the FDLs, with enemy fire at that stage intense.

The MG posns were dug before daylight. Ken Jackson (CoyHQ) came out with us to give outpost flank protection with a Bren, having Pte D.C. Mitchell as No 2. Harry Wilson had another Bren for the same purpose. Occupation was complete right down to the last detail of camouflage by about 0445 hrs, and we had established communication back.

When the attack began we opened fire, with the arty, for one hour, expending nearly 30,000 rounds.

Our later role was to have been a move fwd, to consolidate with the inf. Sjt Mackay had withdrawn the vehs to our FDLs and dispersed them in rear of the limple. The Pl vehs for the exploitation role were to be the CO's Jeep for me, and four 1-tonners for the gun teams.

At the completion of the first phase of the operation, I received a phone call that "the MGs would move fwd for the exploitation role, and the trucks were on their way."

The trucks approached through the dust and murk, coming flat out in desert formation. They whirled round, each to his gun, and the Jeep came straight to my OP. But at this stage Sgmn Tom Whittaker was still missing. It was impossible to keep the trucks standing out there, so we decided to return, looking for Tom, and set off again in desert formation following roughly the way we came out.

This brought us almost to Rear HQ, situated just South of the Pimple. There I sighted Major DAWSON, OC B Coy, and I decided to get further information about my destination forward before moving up. He informed me that the minefields gap at the enemy end had been blocked with a couple of vehs blown up, and our force would have to wait until it had been cleared. So we dispersed the vehs in rear of the Pimple, and awaited further orders.

That was about 0845. At 0852 hrs we intercepted a message that the fwd Coys were withdrawing, so Major K Strange decided our Pl should ~~xxxxxx~~ assist with a covering shoot for the withdrawal. We started to do this role, but found that since there were no timings for the withdrawal, and visibility at the enemy's end was practically nil, it was impossible to carry out the task effectively.

About 1045 hrs, on the return of the major part of the force, the Acting Force Comd, Major GRACE, ordered us to return to our reserve localities.

Shelling during the actual show had been intense on the left flank, but not much of it near the guns until the last phase, when Cpl ALBERTSON received a very nasty wound in the neck. The Sec Cpl, Lon VILLIERS, did a good job, and so did the Sec Comds. Cpl Albertson returned on foot to the FDLs to our Aid Post.

In changing a barrel Pte I.W. (Billy) HAYES scalded his arm pretty badly. It was at the end of the shoot, and he remained on duty.

31/80/1

A8

NOTED	
C.O.	_____
2i/c	_____
Adjt.	_____
Q.M.	_____
M.O.	_____
I.O.	_____
T.O.	_____
R.S.M.	_____

SECRET

9. AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 284

Copy No
2 Sep 42.

36

(Based on info received from 1200 hrs 31 Aug to 1200 hrs 2 Sep 42)

1. GENERAL

The activity which commenced night 30/31 Aug was continued on the Div front.

An attack on enemy posns area 872296 to 872297 was carried out on night 31 Aug / 1 Sep. A total of 103 PW was taken. PW were all GERMAN and from I and III Bn 382 IR.

Night 1/2 Sep was quiet and only one patrol made contact with the enemy, fire being exchanged without observed results.

In the south the line of thrust appears to be towards ALAM BAOSHAZA and GEBEL BEINGABIR, and on 1 Sep some enemy tks were reported to have reached 435882. These tks were being squeezed out by pressure from the east. This move was apparently successful.

In the afternoon of 1 Sep 150 enemy tks were reported in the area 433878 and it is considered that this is the main German tk strength. The main MT concentrations appear to be 431875 500 MT, 890255 2000 MT and several tks, BIR EL RAGIL 1000 MT. At 427878 there are 75 tks thought to belong to ARIETE.

At GABALA a successful action was carried out against enemy MT. There are thought to be no German tps north of 878 northing.

NZ tps in a night patrol knocked out 5 Italian M13 tks. During 1 Sep main enemy activity was apparently recce to find our exact dispositions and endeavour to locate any weak pts.

The RAF has been heavily attacking enemy forces, particularly MT concentrations by night and day with some success.

So far no major clashes have occurred between the armd forces but it is estimated that German tk casualties are in the neighbourhood of 40/50 tks out of action.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

PW state area west pt 23 held by elements of I and III Bn 382 IR. 11 Coy 382 IR held a fwd posn on the northern side pt 23 with 9 and 10 Coys five kms to their rear, 10 Coy on the left. There was one 5 cm A Tk gun with 1 Pl.

In the south dispositions on 1 Sep were roughly as follows - The soft skinned vehs of the armd forces were in the general area BIR EL RAGIL with 90 Lt Div to the NW to protect them from our southern flank. To the north and NE of RAGIL were the 15 and 21 Armd Divs. Protecting their right flank were the two German recce units with possibly some Italians.

3. DETAILED ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Posts 87273025.

Wire 87453020 - 87303025 and at 87263030; 87303016 to 87133010 continuous dannert; 87203016 and 87123019 circular post wiring.

ENEMY METHODS

Among PW cap on night 31/1 Sep were several who had fought in RUSSIA. All these had been wounded in the fighting there and on recovery had been posted to AFRICA.

Further statements by PW showed that prior to the raids carried out on our FDLs night 30/31 Aug, recce had been made of our wire and minefields by small patrols of inf. During the raids engr's had been brought fwd with the inf to blow gaps in our wire.

German anti-personnel S mines have been located at 87273018 with pulltype igniters. Mines are laid in a straight line with taut trip wires fastened to pickets. The mines are laid ten yds apart and the pickets are in between the mines. Each mine has therefore two trip wires.

Appx A sets out the methods of Assault Engr's as they have been used against strong RUSSIAN defences.

5. IDENTIFICATIONS

ITALIAN

(i) 6 Coy, 2 Bn, 20 Inf Regt BRESCIA. One offr and 23 men were taken PW at 873272 30/31 Aug. 2 Bn is reported to have arrived in AFRICA a month ago and relieved a Bn of ITALIAN parachutists on 21 Aug. The BRESCIA Bn has three Coys each 100 strong.

(ii) With these PW were one offr and nine men of 3 Coy 3 A Tk Bn 8 Bersaglieri. 3 A Tk Bn is apparently att to 20 Inf Regt of BRESCIA.

(iii) According to PW of TRENTO Div cap night 30/31 Aug, PISTOIA Div is now in AFRICA, although he was vague concerning its location.

(iv) 1 PW of 12 Coy, 4 Bn, 185 IR, FOLGORE Div, cap in the TAQA pass morning 30 Aug states that 2 Bn is in the same area and that 3 Bn is in AFRICA, location unknown.

(v) 5 PW, who later escaped believed to belong to this div cap night 30/31 Aug at eastern edge of MIREIR Depression (873276).
COMMENT: It is possible that the 186 IR has been moved north to reinforce 25 BOLOGNA Div after the losses inflicted on it night 25/26 Aug.

GERMAN

(i) 14 PW ex 3 Coy I Bn 433 IR cap 31 Aug / 1 Sep at 87752843.

(ii) 3 PW ex 4 Coy I Bn 433 IR cap 31 Aug / 1 Sep at 87842852.

PW stated that each pl has one 37mm A Tk gun. This was the first time that the majority of them had been on patrol duties.

(iii) 1 offr and 96 OR from 1, 9 and 11 Coys 382 IR cap 31 Aug / 1 Sep in the general area pt 23 872297. (Source: 30 Corps I.S. No 170)

6. ENEMY ORGANIZATION

ITALIAN

According to PW of 1 Coy 61 Inf Regt, TRENTO Div cap night 30/31 Aug in area 877277, the strength of 1 Coy was 70 to 80. 2 Coy was south of 1 Coy, but 3 and 4 Coys had been destroyed in earlier engagements.

/ Page three

6. ENEMY ORGANIZATION (cont)GERMAN

A PW of 1 Coy, I Bn Parachute Regt stated that the Regt is organized into "Kampfgruppen" (Battle Groups) based on the original Regt Bns with sub-units allotted from the Regt's HQ Coy. The basic organization has a Regt of two, three or four Bns and one Hy Coy with an unspecified number of hy MGs, 81 mm mortars and Tk guns model 41. Each bn had three coys of three pls, each pl of three rifle secs and a lt mortar sec. The strength of the pl was about 35 all ranks, and of the Coy about 120 all ranks. In addition, tpt and sup personnel with MT were allotted from an unspecified unit, believed to be inf, for the purpose of maintaining the parachutists in a ground role.

The PW added that all the parachute equipment of the Regt had been left in GERMANY, and that as far as he knew, the Regt had no guns in AFRICA.

(Source: 30 Corps I.S. No 170)

7. GROUND OPS

On night 31/1 Sep an attack sp by arty tks and MGs was launched against enemy posns in area 872296 - 872297 with the object of opening a corridor through which a raiding force including tks was to advance into enemy rear areas. The attack went in on time and the capture of the objective was only possible after hard fighting. Hy arty MG and mortar fire was brought to bear on the attackers from enemy posns sited in depth (PWs stated 5 kms). Owing to this very hy opposition the attacking force was unable to open the corridor for exploitation and it and the mobile force were withdrawn to our former posns. Hy casualties are known to have been inflicted on the enemy and 103 German PW incl 6 wounded were taken.

Night 1/2 Sep was quiet and only one patrol made contact with the enemy. Fire was exchanged without observed results. During the night the enemy showed all signs of being extremely nervous, firing illuminating flares without provocation at frequent intervals.

Enemy shelling on our FDLs, especially area ry cutting continued throughout the day.

8. AIR OPS

On 31 Aug 3 enemy planes were shot down in the div area, one ME109, one CR42 and one Mc202. Both Italian pilots were cap though the pilot of the CR42 was very badly wounded.

1 Sep one ME109 shot down. Pilot baled out and was cap slightly wounded. Two raids on area 876297 with bombs and MGs by firstly 8 ME109s and secondly four of the same type of plane. No damage or casualties have been reported. Enemy air activity over the area has been on an increased scale since ops began.

General Night 30/31 Aug. Increasing concentrations MT in southern sector located and heavily bombed by Wellingtons co-operating with Albacores resulting numerous direct hits on MT and fires. Appreciating importance of target Albacores made second sorties with bombs. Hurricanes in course of intruder patrols destroyed 2 Ju88s of force raiding LGs in AMRIYA area, while AA shot down a third.

8. AIR OPS (Cont)

31 Aug. Ops planned on large scale restricted by dust rising in mid-morning and continuing throughout the day. Hurricanes carried out early recce battle area also strafing ME109s on DABA LG 20 damaging five. Escorted by Kittyhawks Bostons, Baltimores and B.25 Mitchells delivered two early morning and one late afternoon attacks on by concentration of MT moving east in southern sector. Bombing most successful and well amongst target without interference from enemy fighters. Despite weather conditions Spitfires and Hurricanes operating from alternative LGs ALEXANDRIA area carried out sweeps over battle area. Hurricanes intercepted escorted Stuka raid at midday claiming one JU87 probable and one damaged which later confirmed by ground forces as three JU87 destroyed. Hurricanes also intercepted Stuka raid NW of ALAMEIN late afternoon forcing them to jettison bombs and damaging two. Spitfires on independent cover sweep engaged escorting ME109s and destroyed one without loss. Earlier Spitfire sweep destroyed one MC202 and damaged one ME109 without loss. A. ground gnr's in fwd areas further discouraged the Luftwaffe by destroying three JU87s, three ME109s, one CR42 and one identified. Enemy air activity on increased started with early fighter sweeps to AMIRIYA and southern sector followed by six Stuka raids and ME109 and MC202 patrols battle area. Photo/R showed proportion of divebomber force moved fwd from HANEISH to DABA LGs.
(Source Adv Air HQ I.S. No 209)

Night bombers 31/1 Sep heavily bombed close leaguers BIR EL RAGIL area starting 40/60 fires.

SPECIAL NOTE

As many GERMAN 17 series bomb fuzes as possible are urgently required in the UK. They are necessary for the carrying out of a series of experiments which will result in an enormous reduction in the risks involved in dealing with GERMAN clock type fuzes.

As the incidence of bombing has not been by in the UK in recent months, the ME must therefore be the main source of supply. All intact 17 fuzes and Zus 40's in the possession of any person or unit should be returned to this HQ forthwith. The desire to retain trophies should in this case be greatly outweighed by the possible enormous saving in life and property which may result from an adequate supply of these fuzes being obtained

Robert P. Capt.
Col.,
GS 9 Aust Div.

Distribution :-

As for 9 Aust Div Intelligence Summary No 283.

FAB. O.	NOTED
2i/c.	
Adje.	
Q.M.	9
M.O.	
I.S.	
R.S.M.	GENERAL

307/801

A8

SECRET

36

31 Aug 42.

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 283

(Based on infm received from 1200 hrs 30 Aug to 1200 hrs 31 Aug 42)

1. GENERAL

Period of quiet was broken with activity on almost every part of the front, from the coast to QATTARA Depression.

Enemy launched an unsuccessful raid on our FDLs supported by arty mortar and MG fire.

Flanking units staged raids on enemy lines, one party taking PW, 55 Italians of I/61 IR TRENTO, and one German from I/433 IR. Another formation took 30 Italian PW but so far we have not been advised of identification.

Enemy, believed German Paratps attacked RUWEISAT Ridge 0330 hrs and after some initial success were driven out by 0607 hrs. No tks were used.

Enemy main drive with armour is operating south 260 grid. First engaged by our tps at 0130 hrs, enemy have made some progress moving generally east to ENE and fighting is still going on. It appears that elements at least of both 15 and 21 Armd Divs are involved in the south. 90 Lt Div is also reported in this area. There are however, no reports of enemy inf being engaged.

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

An Italian offr captured NE of DEIR EL DHIB night 30/31 Aug, is from 354 Bty, 46 Arty Regt, TRENTO.

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

PWs confirmed the present general allotment of units on Div front. I/125 IR, previously of doubtful location is stated by PW to have elements at least between main rd and ry. This may mean that both I/125 IR and II/125 IR are between the ry and northing 300. This is borne out by the PWs statements of the depth of the posns. Layout is said to be fwd wire and minefields 1 km square with strongpts in between them. Main coy posns are then some distance to the rear (none of the PWs could give any clear idea of distance). PWs also stated that, strongposts were alternatively German and Italian and further a screen of Italians was often placed fwd of the minefields and wire in dug-in posns to act as "Bait" for our patrols.

4. DETAILED ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Posts : 87332970 (evacuated).
Wire : 87702921 (on bearing 255 degrees).

5. ENEMY METHODS

Sp for raid on our FDLs was provided by MGs and mortars well fwd on the flanks. Attempts had been made to dig these weapons in as far fwd as our minefields. At least one 20 mm posn was found close to our lines by daylight mopping up patrols. PW states these weapons intended to give very close sp during the actual assault.

6. GROUND OPS

At 2350 hrs enemy of approx strength 80 attacked our FDLs in area of CAIRN 875296 and at 0035 hrs two parties each of similar size moved against our posns north and south of ry at TWIN 24 feature and NE of Trig 33.

The attacks were preceded by arty and hy MG fire, the MGs and mortars later being brought well fwd to give sp to the raid. Arty SOS fire was called for, which combined with vigorous small arms fire of

6. GROUND OPS (Cont'd)

our fwd tps, rendered the attacks abortive in all sectors. Casualties were inflicted on the enemy and 4 PWs, two of whom were wounded, were taken in the Trig 33 area. One was believed to be from 220 Engr Bn (badly wounded) and the others from III/125 IR.

At 0420 hrs the enemy made a further attempt on our posns. The arty again fired and this second attempt met with no more success than the first. Two further German PWs were taken, one from I/382 IR in vicinity CAIRN, and the other from I/125 IR at 875301. By 0800 hrs situation was again normal.

PWs stated that the ops were raids only with the object of taking PWs.

7. AIR OPS

F and recce patrols were active over the fwd areas.

Boston B, until grounded through extremely poor visibility, inaugurated a "shuttle" service and heavily bombed enemy concentrations in the south. 40 to 50 MT destroyed.

9 JU 87s dive-bombed our armd forces area 4288 and two were shot down by AA fire.

C. E. Evans Capt.
for Col
GS 9 Armt Div

DISTRIBUTION :-

As for Summary No 282.

RAZOR
ONIONS

20 MUST W/F BDE O.O. No 19.

PA

875

CODEWORDS FOR MESSAGES

EXPLOITING FORCE

SKYLINE

428 MUSTARD

II/125 IR

I/125 IR or I/121 R TRENTO

III/382 IR

KIEL GP

III 12 IR TRENTO

METHOD - Composition of raiding force
Lt Col RW G OGLE Comd 2/15 with 40
1 Sqn (less 4 Tps 9 Cav) 1 Sqn RTR
1 Sqn 13 Bty 2/7 Fd Regt 1 Tpt 4 BAA Regt
9 ATK Bty (less 1 tp) 1 Sec 2/13 Fd Coy
B Coy 2/2 MG (less 1 pl)

Exhibit
Dist:

Comd Maj A E McIntyre 9 DN Cav
1 Sqn less 4 tps 9 Cav Regt
1 Sqn RTR 1 tp 13 Bty
2 Tps ATK guns
1 Pl 2/15 Det RAE

Admin

Tpt from 2/Bde to 2/15
3x3 ton CAS 2x2 ton SPA
SBIAD available by phone at
B Coy 2/7
PW 2/7 take over from 2/15 at
SANDY KNOLL & clear to CP.
Runners from 2/15 rep to B or C Coys 2/7

2/13 Fd Coy to supply RE stores & provide
demolition party & make gaps*

MG's (a) Tasks as ordered
(b) Guns now in Fd Coy 2/7 2/13
supporting attack by flanking fire
under orders CO 2/2

MORTARS 2/13, 2/17 make available 1 88mm crew &
1 spare crew to 2/15
P20

CHEESE B47
F.U.P.s
B2, 3, 7/2
Lt AA 1 tp
Tk 1 Sqn

Phase 1 2/15 Bn to hold firm base at first light

Phase 2 Exploiting force to raid localities and
communications SOUTH of SIDI RAHMAN
return to FDL 1500 hrs.

Phase 3 Entire force withdrawn to FDL's at
last light on day of raid.

part well
1941A

E.I. cust
2/20 Aust War Mem
23 Aug

NOTED MESSAGE FORM SECRET

Serial No. 14
Office Date Stamp

CALL AND STRUCTIONS

IN
OUT

C.O.	.....
2 i/c.	.....
Adj.	.....
Q.M.	.....
M.O.	.....
I.O.	.....
T.O.	.....
R.S.M.	.....

300/55/1

P

No. of Groups.
GR.

TO

24 AUST INF Bde (ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)
26 AUST INF Bde
2/2 AUST MG Bn
30 AUST INF Bde
30 AUST INF Bde
9 AUST DIV CAV REGT
3 SA Bde
RAA, SIGS
30 CORPS
ISA DIV

FROM

MAIN 9 AUST

Originator's Number

0675

Date

29

In Reply to Number

Warning

order

24 and 26

AUST. INF BDES

will relieve

each other commencing 2 Sept

2/3 PNR BN

will remain on present role

passing under command

26 BDE 200 BNS 26

BDE will occupy reserve positions in EL ALAMEIN

2/28 command

BN will revert to 24 BDE

This message may be sent As Written by any means
*(except)
(.....) Wireless

This message must be sent In Cipher if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

IMPORTANT

Time of Origin

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

Signature.....

Signature.....

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including" (Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

No. of Groups.
GR.

Office Date Stamp

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

0 Units now in support 24 and 26
 BDES will NOT move any relief
 required will be ordered separately @
 A Coy 2/2 MG BN and 12 AUST A/TNK Bty
 remain temporarily present location passing to
 command 24 Bde @ Method of relief will be

This message may be sent **As Written**
 by any means
 *(except)
 (.....) Wireless

This message must be sent **In Cipher**
 if liable to interception or to fall into
 enemy hands

Originator's Instructions
 Degree of Priority

Time of Origin

Signature.....

Signature.....

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including"

(Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

Office Date Stamp

No. of Groups.
GR.

CALL
AND
INSTRUC-
TIONS

IN

OUT

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

*arranged between Bdes @ Success for
relief will be completed on 1 Sept
@ Ack*

This message may be sent **As Written**
by any means
*(except)
(.....) Wireless

This message must be sent **In Cipher**
if liable to interception or to fall into
enemy hands

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time of Origin

1245

T.H.I.

1300

T.O.R.

Signature.....

Signature.....

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including"

(Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender
<i>P</i>	<i>1345</i>	<i>A Roberts</i>									

APPX B

326/55/1

Actd.

NOTED	
C.O.	
2i/c	
Adj.	
Q.M.	
M.O.	
I.O.	
T.O.	
R.S.M.	

SECRET

9 AUST DIV O O No. 19

Copy No. 8
4 Sep 42

Ref 9 Aust Div O Os Nos. 15 and 16.

INFORMATION

1. Separate instructions have been issued to 26 Aust Inf Bde for its possible employment outside 9 Aust Div sector.

INTENTION

2. 9 Aust Div will continue with preparations for defence of its sector.

METHOD

3. Recces will be carried out by formations and comds as shown and in the order of priority shown.

<u>Serial</u>	<u>Formation, Unit or Comd</u>	<u>Recce</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
1.	26 Aust Inf Bde	Posn D	As already ordered verbally.
2.	20 Aust Inf Bde	Posn A	For occupation by 20 Aust Inf Bde Gp less one bn and one fd bty.
3.	24 Aust Inf Bde	Posn A	As for serial 2.
4.	24 Aust Inf Bde	Eastern perimeter defence EL ALAMEIN	Already in progress.
5.	CO 2/2 Aust MG Bn	289 & 899 north-ing grid between Posn A and EL ALAMEIN	Location of MG/A Tk posts to secure the area north of the line given for movement between Posn A and EL ALAMEIN and as a base for cav and/or tk ops to the south. Plans will be based on:-

(a) No tps other than the div res of MG and A Tk guns, with the div cav in sp, being available.

(b) The minimum force required for the task when neither tks nor div cav are available.

Arty sp from Posn A and EL ALAMEIN can be assumed to be available.

Serial	Formation, Unit or Comd	Recce	Purpose
6.	9 Aust Div Cav Regt	To sp 20 & 24 Aust Inf Bdes in area west of EL ALAMEIN	To provide quick sp to fwd units in the event of enemy success in fwd areas.
7.	9 Aust Div Cav Regt	For counter attack to SE of EL ALAMEIN or SW of Posn "A"	To harass enemy forces which have penetrated into these areas.

Reserves

4. 9 Aust Div Cav Regt will move into div res in area 427900-428900.
- Tasks
- (a) Rest, maintenance and trg.
 - (b) Re-organise on WE basis.
 - (c) Prepare plans for organisation of one tk sqn at the shortest notice.
 - (d) Recce counter-attack tasks given above.
 - (e) Completion of trg of tk crews.

5. D Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn }
 10 Aust A Tk Bty } will remain in eastern area of EL ALAMEIN defences.

Tasks. In co-operation with bde concerned recce and dig posns for use in sp of

(a) 24 Aust Inf Bde in EL ALAMEIN against attack from the east and attack from the SW

(b) 24 Aust Inf Bde west of EL ALAMEIN

(c) 20 Aust Inf Bde.

6. B Sqn 40 RTR.

- Tasks
- (a) Refit in present area.
 - (b) Remain under div comd for use for counter attack in sp of 20 and 24 Aust Inf Bdes as required. Counter attack tasks will be reced in conjunction with bdes concerned.

A C K N O W L E D G E

Issued through Sigs

Time of signature 2115 hrs

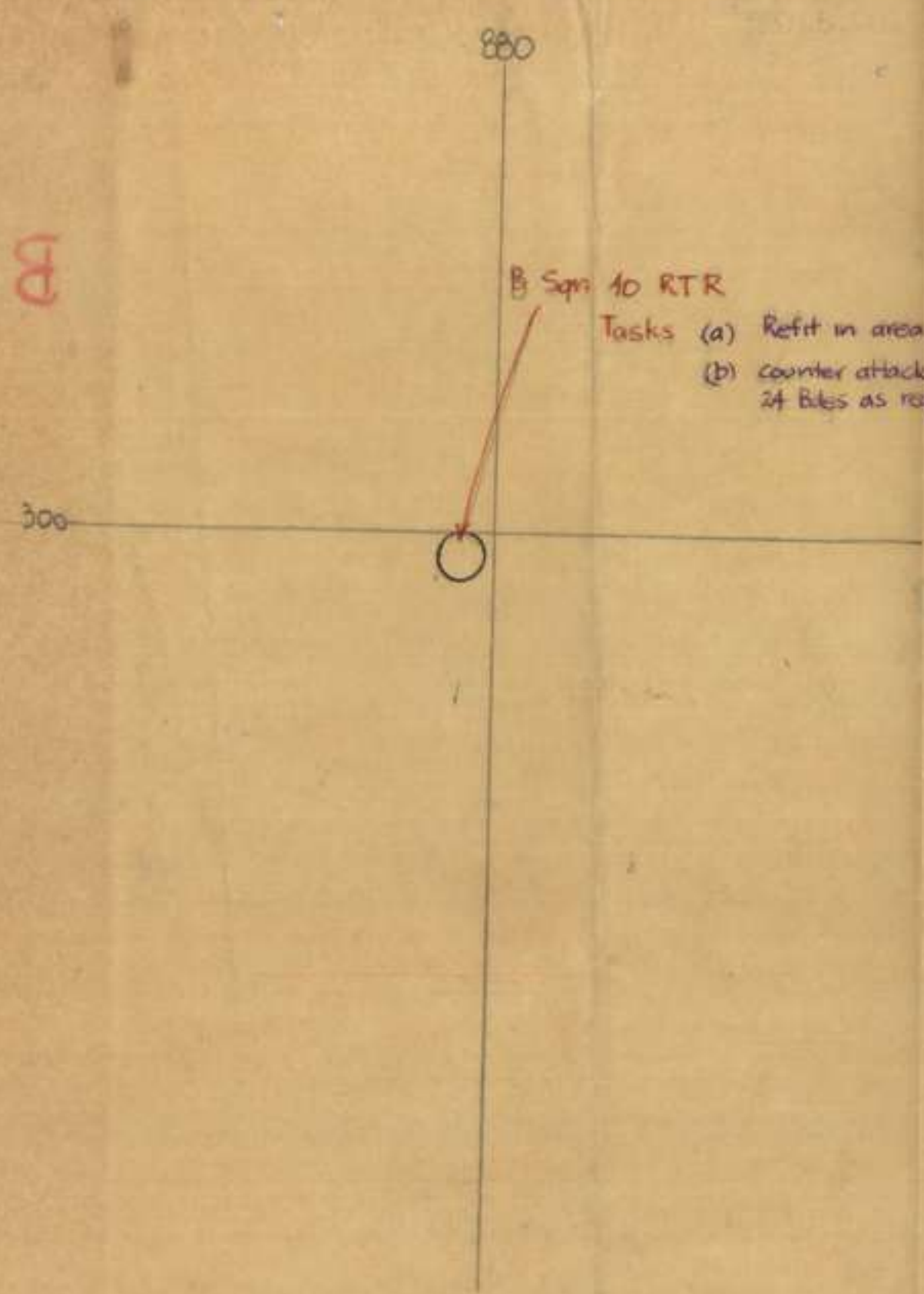
R. B. Law Col
 GS 9 Aust Div

DISTRIBUTION

COPY No

20 AUST INF BDE	1	1 SA Div	10
24 Aust Inf Bde	2	Comd	11
26 Aust Inf Bde	3	G	12 - 13
9 Aust Div Cav Regt	4	Q	14 - 15
RAA	5	AASC 9 Aust Div	16
RAE	6	Medical	17
Sigs	7	Ord	18
MG	8	File	19 + 20
B Sqn 40 RTR	9	War Diary	21 - 22
		Spares	23 - 29

B5



B Sqn 10 RTR

- Tasks (a) Refit in area
(b) counter attack in sp of 20 & 24 Bde as req

9 AUST DIV 00 No 19

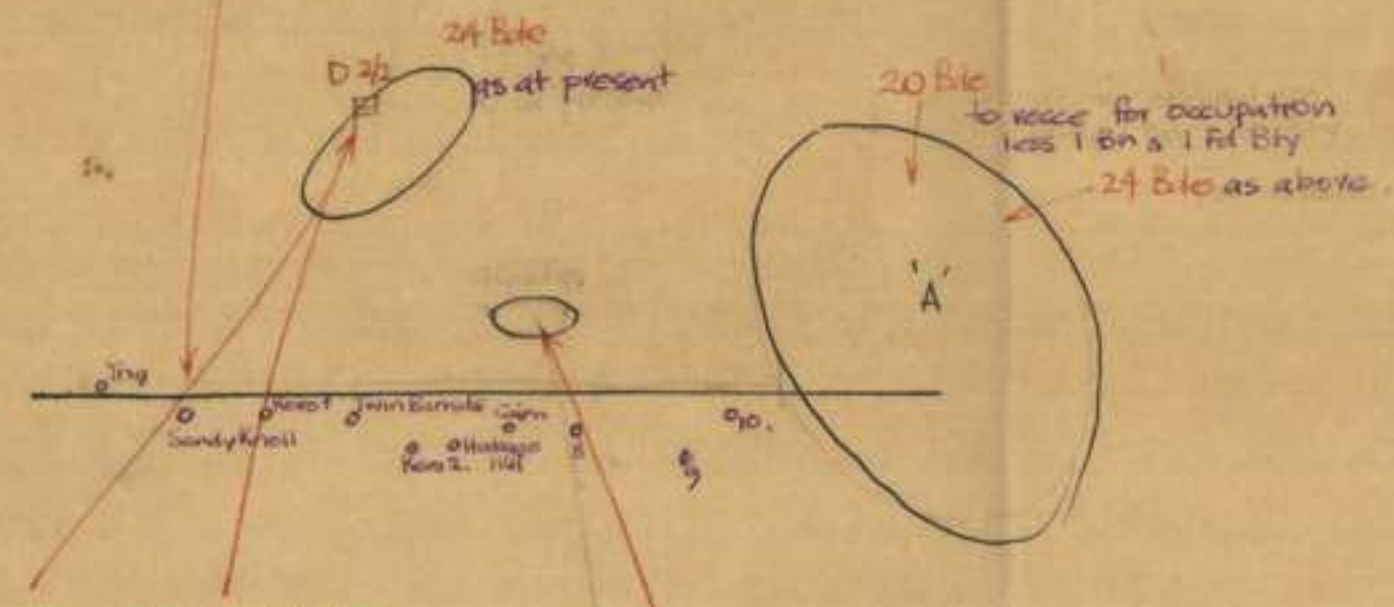
Ref 00's No 15 & 16

4 SEP 42

Superimpose on EL DABA. EL HAMMIAM 1:100,000.

2/2 M.G. Bn

- Recco 289 & 899 Grid betwee 'A' & ALAMEIN
 Purpose Location of MG/ATK posts to secure area north of the line for movement between 'A' & ALAMEIN, and as base for Cav or tk ops to South
 Basis on (a) No tps other than MG/ATK with Cav in sp being available.
 (b) Minimum force for task when Tks or Cav not available. Arty sp assumed available



24 Bde
as at present

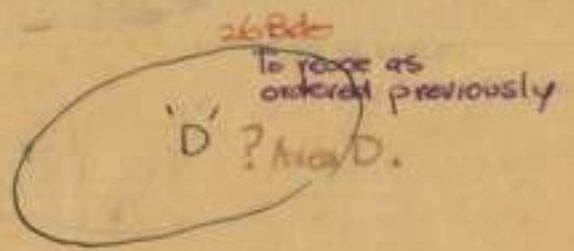
20 Bde
to recco for occupation
less 1 Bn & 1 Fd Bty
24 Bde as above

D Coy 2/2 10 ATK Bty

- Tasks In coop with Bde concerned
Recco & dig posns for use
in sp of (a) 24 Bde in ALAMEIN from attack EAST & SOUTH
(b) 24 Bde WEST of ALAMEIN
(c) 20 Bde

9 Div Cav to move to res area

- Tasks (a) Rest, Maintenance
(b) Organise 1 Tk Sqn
Recco counter attack tasks
Complete tng areas



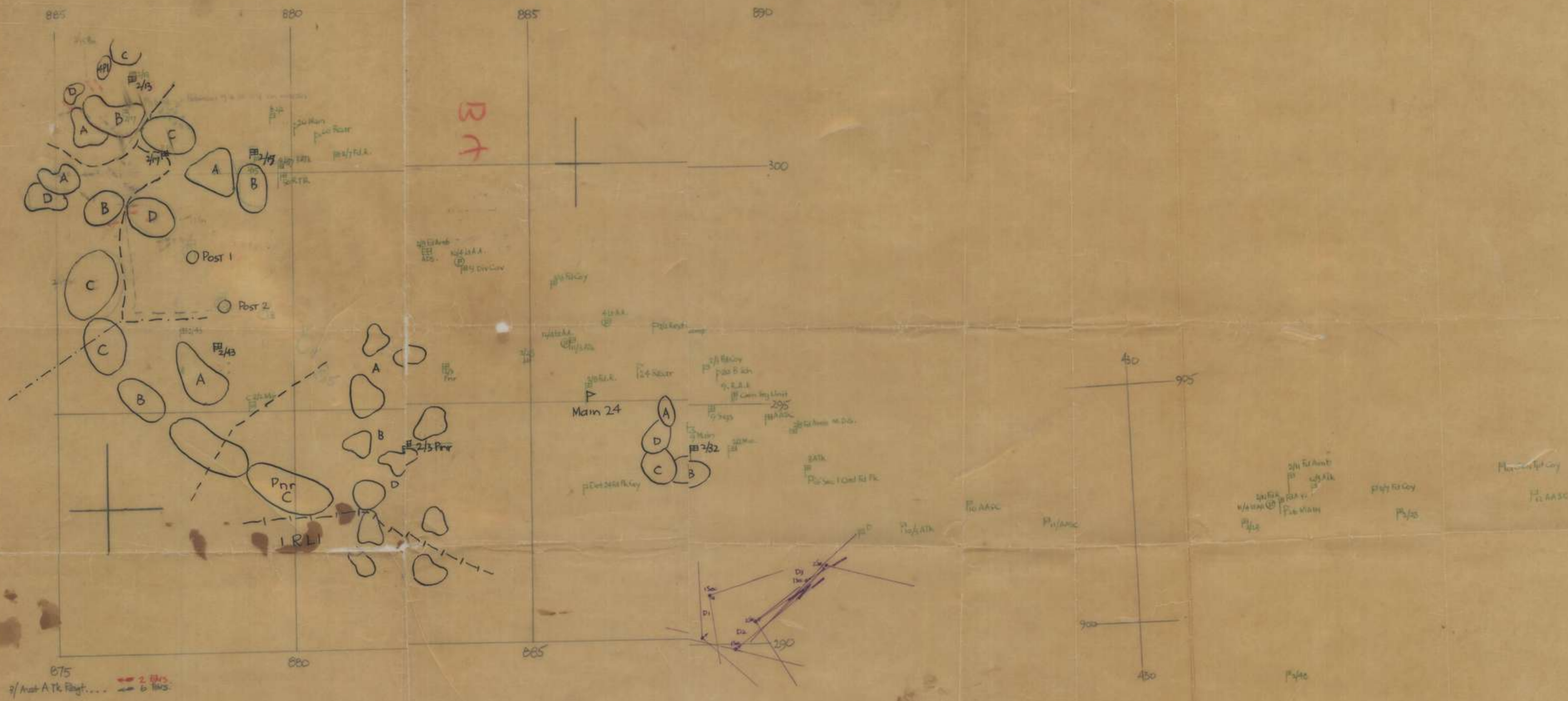
26 Bde
to recco as ordered previously

E-L CUST
2/2 M.G. Bn
5 Sep.



E. J. Lynch
 24 Aug 1944
 544

29 Aug
 1944
 544



NOTED	
C.O.	
2i/c	
Adj.	
Q.M.	
M.O.	
I.O.	
T.C.	
R.S.M.	

377/55/1

APPX C

G731/50/6

SECRET

UST DIV GENERAL STAFF INSTN No 74

13 Sep 42

Affiliation 51 Highland Div.

1. 51 Highland Div has been affiliated with 9 Aust Div, the object being to assist 51 Highland Div in gaining desert and battle experience as rapidly as possible.
2. The Div Comd desires that every opportunity be granted to units of 51 Highland Div to gain such experience. To facilitate arrangements, affiliation has been continued down to units in accordance with the table given below and approval is granted for arrangements between units to be made through the bdes concerned or between affiliated units direct.

HQ 9 Aust Div

HQ 51 Highland Div

20 Aust Inf Bde

152 Bde

2/13 Aust Inf Bn -
2/15 Aust Inf Bn -
2/17 Aust Inf Bn -

2 Seaforth.
5 Seaforth
5 Camerons

24 Aust Inf Bde

153 Bde

2/28 Aust Inf Bn -
2/32 Aust Inf Bn -
2/43 Aust Inf Bn -

5 Black Watch
1 Gordons
5/7 Gordons

26 Aust Inf Bde

154 Bde

2/23 Aust Inf Bn -
2/24 Aust Inf Bn -
2/48 Aust Inf Bn -

1 Black Watch
7 Black Watch
7 A & SH

9 Aust Div Cav Regt -

51 Highland Recce Regt

RAA 9 Aust Div

RA 51 Highland Div

2/7 Aust Fd Regt -
2/8 Aust Fd Regt -
2/12 Aust Fd Regt -

128 Fd Regt
127 Fd Regt
126 Fd Regt

RAE 9 Aust Div

RE 51 Highland Div

2/3 Aust Fd Coy -
2/7 Aust Fd Coy -
2/13 Aust Fd Coy -

274 Fd Coy
275 Fd Coy
276 Fd Coy

2/2 Aust MG Bn -

1/7 Middlesex

Distribution :-

List B less serials 10, 11, 14, 24, 25, 29
plus 51 Highland Div, Main 30 Corps.

*for Col.,
GS 9 Aust Div.*

498/55/1

O.C. 2/2nd Aust.
M.G. Bn

PROVISIONAL M.G. PROGRAMME -- 1/7 MIDDLESEX REGT.

Date	Relief By.	In relief of	Relief Completed By.	Recess Parties leave.	A Coy 1/7 Mx	B Coy 1/7 Mx	C Coy 1/7 Mx.	D Coy 1/7 Mx	Remarks.
Night 1/2 Oct	D Coy 1/7 Mx	C Coy 2/2 Aust Bn less 12 gun posns	0300 hrs 2 Oct	Completed	Present situation.	154 Bde in M area until 3 Oct	153 Bde E locality	In Line	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All M.G reliefs will be carried out mutually between O.C 2/2 and O.C 1/7. Coys in line will come under comd Major A.E.Green. His HQ opens at HQ 2/2 Bn 88922939 at 1800 hrs 1 Oct
Oct 2/3	EXERCISE "ABEPLOUR". A,B,C Coys 1/7 Mx take part								
Oct 3/4 Night	A Coy 1/7 Mx	C Coy 2/2 A.B	0300 hrs 4 Oct	A.M 5 Oct	Moving into the line	154 "F" locality	153 Bde E locality	In line	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> C Coy 1/7 Mx will continue to occupy posns in "E" locality on departure of 153 Bde.
Night Oct 8/9	C Coy 1/7 Mx	D Coy 1/7 Mx	0300 hrs	A.M 7 Oct	In line	154 F	In Line	To 152 E Locality when relief completed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bn cpt begins to arrive Oct 7/8 provisionally.
Oct 10/11.	30 Corps Exercise Begins 0800 hrs 10th. Ends - Daylight 11th.				In line	Taking part 30 Corps Exercise	In Line	Taking part 30 Corps Exercise.	

NOTED

C.O. _____ 2

2i/c. _____ 3

Adjt. _____ 1

Q.M. _____

M.O. _____

I.O. _____ 4

T.O. _____

R.S.M. _____

/over :-

Date	Relief by	In relief of	Relief completed By	Recce Parties Leave	A Coy 1/7 Bn	B Coy 1/7 Bn	C Coy 1/7 Bn	D Coy 1/7 Bn	Remarks.
Night Oct 12/ 13	A Coy 1/7 Bn	B Coy 1/7 Bn	0300 hrs	A.M 11 Oct. Immed- iately after con- clusion 30 Corp Exer- cise.	To defence Div HQ on com- pletion of relief	In Line	In Line	152 "E" local- ity. In M Area 7/11. Oct.	
Night Oct 19/ 20	C Coy 2/2 less 12 guns	C Coy 1/7 Bn	0300 hrs		" "	In Line	153	152 "E" Loc- ality	?
Night Oct 20/ 21	C Coy 2/2	B Coy 1/7 Bn	0300 hrs		" "	154	153	152	5. Depending on Bde moves C Coy may be relieved night 20/21 B Coy may be relieved night 21/22

1 Oct 42.
M.E.F.
JGC.

464. / 55/1

NOTED	
C.O.	11
2/c	2
A. Jt.	4
O.M.	
O.	
I.O.	3
Ref. Maps	EL ALAMEIN
R.S.M.	

G 776/60/2

S E C R E T

9 AUST DIV 00 NO 20

Copy No ... 2 ...
28 Sep 42.

Ref. Maps EL ALAMEIN EL QASABA 1/50,000

INFM

- 152 Inf Bde Gp 51 HD is relieving 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp commencing night 1/2 Oct 42.
- Additional Tps. The following come under operational comd 9 Aust Div on relief of corresponding units of 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp:-

152 Inf Bde HD
 105 Lt AA Bty
 242 A Tk Bty
 Two MG Coys 1/7 Mx
 Sec 275 Fd Coy
 Sec Pro Coy

INTENTION

- 152 Bde Gp 51 HD will relieve 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp and will become responsible for the op roles now allotted to 24 Aust Inf Bde.

METHOD

- Relief night 1/2 Oct
 - 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn by 5 Camerons
 - 2/32 Aust Inf Bn by 2 Seaforth
 - 10 Aust A Tk Bty by 242 A Tk Bty
 - Proportion MGs of 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp (as arranged by CO 2/2 Aust MG Bn) by D MG Coy 1/7 Mx
 - 2/3 Aust Fd Coy by One sec 275 Fd Coy One sec Pro Coy.
- Relief night 2/3 Oct
 - 2/28 Aust Inf Bn by 5 Seaforth.
- Relief night 3/4 Oct
 - Remainder MGs 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp by one coy 1/7 Mx.
- (a) The following are placed in sp 152 Inf Bde
 - 2/8 Aust Fd Regt
 - 242 A Tk Bty
 - Two MG coys 1/7 Mx
 - Sec 275 Fd Coy.
 - (b) 105 Bty Lt AA on arrival comes under comd CRA 9 Aust Div.
 - (c) One Coy 175 Fd Amb moves with 152 Inf Bde but remains under comd 51 HD.
- On relief 24 Aust Inf Bde will move to area between excl Posn A incl Posn B and north of the 900 grid.
- 152 Bde will not pass junc BOMBAY and MAIN rds before last light each night.
- Comd will pass at a time to be mutually arranged between bde comds and this HQ will be notified in advance.

ADM

11. 51 HD tp carrying tpt used by 152 Inf Bde will be used to move units of 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp to rear area under mutual arrangements of bdes. Tpt carrying tpt will be released by units of 24 Aust Inf Bde immediately on arrival in the rear area.
12. Two Spigot mortars with each 2/28 Aust Inf Bn and 2/32 Aust Inf Bn will be handed over to 152 Inf Bde.
13. Adm 152 Inf Bde remains under 51 HD.
14. Sups - 24 Aust Inf Bde.
 - (a) 11 Coy AASC 9 Aust Div will deliver direct to units B Ech areas.
 - (b) HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde will notify time and place of meeting pts to all units and AASC 9 Aust Div on the first day of drawing at the new location.
15. Amn - 24 Aust Inf Bde.
As at present.
16. POL - 24 Aust Inf Bde.
Pet will be drawn from tankers in bulk as at present.
17. Water.

11. (a) 51 HD tp carrying tpt used by 152 Inf Bde will be used to move units of 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp to rear area under mutual arrangements of bdes. Tpt carrying tpt will be released by units of 24 Aust Inf Bde immediately on arrival in the rear area.
Water pt 1 1/2 miles east of EL IMAYID Ry Sta.
- (b) 152 Inf Bde -
12. Two Spigot mortars with each 2/28 Aust Inf Bn and 2/32 Aust Inf Bn will be handed over to 152 Inf Bde.
Water pt southerly line at EL ALAMEIN Ry Sta.

INTERCOMM

13. Adm 152 Inf Bde remains under 51 HD.
18. An LO from 9 Aust Div will be stationed temporarily at HQ 152 Inf Bde. - 24 Aust Inf Bde.
 - (a) 11 Coy AASC A C K N O W L E I D G E will deliver direct to units B Ech areas.
 - (b) HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde will notify time and place of meeting pts to all units and AASC 9 Aust Div on the first day of drawing at the new location.

Issued through Sigs

Time of signature 2325 hrs Bde.

J. Hodgman
for Col
GS 9 Aust Div

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

Copy No

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
16. POL - 24 Aust Inf Bde.		
20 Aust Inf Bde	1	51 HD 12 - 14
24 Aust Inf Bde	2	23 Armd Bde as at present 15
26 Aust Inf Bde	3	Comd 16
9 Aust Div Cav Regt	4	G 17 - 18
RAA	5	AQ 19 - 20
RAE	6	AASC 9 Aust Div 21
Sigs	7	Medical 22
2/2 Aust MG Bn	8	Ord 23
1 SA Div	9	DAPM 24
3 SA Bde	10	File 25 - 26
Main 30 Corps	11	War Diary 27 - 28

INTERCOMM

13. Adm 152 Inf Bde remains under 51 HD.
18. An LO from 9 Aust Div will be stationed temporarily at HQ 152 Inf Bde. - 24 Aust Inf Bde.

9 AUST DIV S.O No 70.

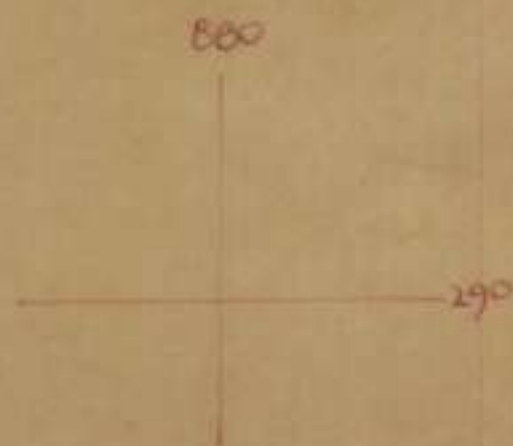
- 152 Inf Bde Gp 51 HD. 1st Lt AA Bty, 2nd Lt AA Bty, 2 MG Coys 1/7 Mx, Sec 275 Fd Coy, Sec Pro Coy,
- Tps under operational control 9 Aust Div.

INTERSECTION 3. 152 Bde Gp 51 HD responsible op roles now allotted 24 Aust Inf Bde.

METHOD 4. Relief night 1/2 Oct.
 2/3 Pnr by 5 Camerons
 1/32 by 2 Seaforth
 10 ATK Bty by 242 ATK Bty
 Proportion MGs 2/2 as arranged by C.O. 24 MG Bn
 by D MG Coy 1/7 Mx
 1/3 Fd Coy by 1 sec 275 Fd Coy
 Relief night 2/3 Oct. 2/38 by 5 Seaforth

Relief night 3/4 Oct
 Remainder MG's 24 Bde Gp
 by one Coy 1/7 Mx

On relief 24 Aust Inf Bde will move to area between 'A' & 'B' north of 900 Grid



24 MG Bn



SECRET.

24 Bde Gp.

By. C.O.
 24 Aust Inf Bde
 30 Sep 42

by comdr. Fds



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
G 801/50/8

NOTED	
C.O.	<i>[Signature]</i>
2/c.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Adj.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Q.M.	
M.O.	
I.O.	
T.O.	
R.S.M.	

HEADQUARTERS

MAIN 9 AUST DIV
6 Oct 42.

26 AUST INF BDE
RAA
RAE
SIGS
2/2 AUST MG BN. ✓



OFFERS ATT 51 HD

The following, which has been received from the GOC 51 Highland Division is forwarded for information :-

" I wish to thank you very much for letting us have the services of all the above-named Officers. They have been of the greatest assistance to the units of this Division to which they were attached, and all ranks speak highly of the excellent way in which they carried out their duties and of the standard of instruction which they have given.

It makes all the difference when we can be instructed by officers who have had real experience, and I can assure you that we are all very grateful to their parent units for having spared them to us, and are proud to be regarded as the Australian Division's new relation! "

[Signature]
Col
G3 9 Aust Div

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS BY

(Nos 205--

LT-COL E. MACARTHUR ONSLOW

COMMANDING

IN THE FIELD
5 Sep 42

2/2 AUST MACHINE GUN BATTALION

205. CONTINUATION PAYBOOKS

It is advised that under present conditions no conversion of Duplicate Paybooks to Continuation Paybooks can be effected for some considerable time. Later advice will be given in this connection.

206. FOREIGN LANGUAGES

A return is required, to reach Bn HQ by 12 Sep 42, in accordance with pro forma below, of all personnel with foreign language qualifications.

No	Rank	Name	Languages	Extent of knowledge
----	------	------	-----------	---------------------

207. ABBREVIATED TITLE - AASC

All units are warned that care must be taken when using the abbreviated title "AASC" as it is common to both Australian Army Service Corps and Army Air Sp Control. When the use of "AASC" in orders, messages or telephone conversations, or as an address can leave any doubt as to which unit is meant by it, the originator will describe the Australian Army Service Corps unit (e.g., AASC 9 Aust Div or 10th Coy AASC) or use the full title of Army Air Sp Control.

208. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS - ALEXANDRIA

The attention of all ranks is drawn to the 20 mph speed limit in force in ALEXANDRIA. The CORNICHE--the Coast road-- is closed to all traffic after 2130 hrs for operational reasons. This will be brought to the notice of all ranks. (9 Div RO 409)

209. PETROL - IMPROPER USE

ARO 341 is republished hereunder:

"It has come to notice that cases of improper use of petrol are continuing, and that a considerable number of accidents result therefrom. Clothes, etc., are still being washed in petrol and it is still being used in attempting to clear dug-outs of insects. Immediate orders will be issued to stop these practices."
(9 Div RO 410)

210. FLYSOL - ECONOMY IN USE OF

- (a) The future provision of Flysol is precarious, and it is essential that the utmost economy is exercised in its use.
- (b) Flysol will not be sprayed indiscriminately in open tents and buildings. The object must be to obtain a lethal concentration of vapour in the air over a period of half an hour or more.
- (c) The use of Flysol will, therefore, be restricted to buildings, tents, dug-outs and lorries that can be completely closed and left closed for a period of not less than half an hour. Living accommodation will be sprayed not more than twice daily, in the morning and evening. Dining rooms and messes will be sprayed half an hour before meals are served. Flysol will not be used in cookhouses except at night and in the morning, before and after work commences.
- (d) The following is a rough guide of the amounts required to obtain a lethal concentration:

A barrack room 60' x 18' x 12'	requires	400	strokes	flit	gun
Tents I.P.	require	66	strokes	of	flit
Tents R.D.	"	32	"	"	"
Tents CD or CS	"	19	"	"	"

(9 Div RO 411)

211. POSTAL - CHRISTMAS MAILS

(a) Ordinary letters and parcels addressed to the undermentioned places for delivery by Christmas Day must be posted at Army Post Offices in the Middle East not later than the dates shown:

United Kingdom and Eire	15 Sep 42
Australia	1 Nov 42
India	14 Nov 42
New Zealand	30 Sep 42
South Africa	1 Nov 42
N & S Rhodesia	1 Nov 42
East Africa	14 Nov 42
Sudan	4 Dec 42

(b) Any information available regarding parcels (e.g., weight and customs duty) to ENGLAND or AUSTRALIA may be obtained through Coy Orderly Rooms or from Bn HQ.

212. SECURITY

(a) Photography: Despite previous instructions numerous breaches of GHQ MEF GO 1242 of 28 Nov 41 have been reported. All cameras other than those held by official unit photographers should have been withdrawn and returned to kit store. This will be done under Coy arrangements, and a certificate rendered to this HQ by 9 Sep 42 that all cameras other than these of unit photographers have been withdrawn from personnel.

(b) Strangers: Coys are reminded of the necessity for checking the identity of strangers moving about their areas or asking directions, especially at night. B Ech areas should be carefully watched for "strays" and too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity for a constant and careful check.
(9 Div RO 497)

213. PHOSPHORUS BURNS

Phosphorus burns may result from the handling of 76 AW grenades. The immediate treatment is exclusion of air by immersing in water or if this is not possible by covering with a cloth well soaked in water, which must be kept in place till medical attention is available. Greasy or oily preparations must not be used on these burns.
(9 Div RO 498)

214. CABLEGRAMS

E.F.M. Standard Text No 90, which reads "HAVE NOT BEEN WELL" should be amended to read, "HAVE NOT BEEN ILL" (9 Div RO 499)

215. PAYBOOKS

Paybooks will not be collected from individuals under any circumstances, except to obtain a continuation paybook, when the receipt supplied will be carried on the man at all times. The practice, adopted in some Coys, of collecting paybooks from tps desiring pay will be discontinued forthwith. (9 Div RO 500)

216. WEAPON STATE

A weekly state of weapons held is required in duplicate to reach this HQ on Sundays by 1000 hrs. (9 Div RO 503)

217. ECONOMY OF FORMS

A considerable saving in message forms can be made by the use of scrap paper, cut to size, in place of AF C2128 for office and spare copies of messages. (9 Div RO 504)

218. ARMING 69 GRENADES

Force must NOT be used to insert detonators in 69 grenades. Any of these grenades which will not accept detonators without force being used will be reboxed and returned to AFs, together with a report, a duplicate of which will be sent to Main 9 Aust Div.

(9 Div RO 506)

219. DISCIPLINE

The undermentioned sentences by courts-martial are published for information :-

Two private soldiers, each convicted of making away with, by selling his rifle (AA 24(1)), and making away with, by selling, his ammunition (AA 24(1)), were sentenced to undergo detention for 21 months and 18 months respectively.

A private soldier, convicted of losing by neglect his rifle (AA 24 (2)) was sentenced to undergo detention for six months and to be put under stoppages of pay to make good the sum of £A9/9/9.

A private soldier, convicted of AWL (AA 15(1)) for 28 days ; fraudulently misapplying £P 28, public property (AA 18 (4)) and losing by neglect his paybook (AA 24(2)), was sentenced to be imprisoned without hard labour for six months and to be put under stoppages of pay to make good the sum of £P 28.

A private soldier, convicted of stealing £P 10 the property of a person subject to military law (AA 18(4)) was sentenced to undergo detention for nine months.

A private soldier convicted of being improperly in possession of two blankets, public property (AA 40), was sentenced to undergo detention for nine months.

Two private soldiers convicted of being improperly concerned in the sale of four blankets, public property, to a civilian (AA 40) were each sentenced to undergo detention for nine months.
(AIF (ME) Order 1227)

220. FIELD GENERAL COURT MARTIAL

NX 27742 Pte ROMALIS, A., was tried by a Field General Court Martial on 29 Aug 42, on three charges of being AWL, Army Act 15 (1).

Finding : Guilty on all charges.

By sentence dated 29 Aug 42, he was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for two years.

Confirmation : Confirmed by Lt-Gen Sir Leslie Morshead, GOC 9 Aust Div, 31 Aug 42.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS, ETC

- NX70321 Chaplain R. Bird, transferred to 2/3 Aust CCS.
Chaplain J. Alcorn, trans from 2/5 Aust CCS to 2/2 MG Bn.
NX58539 A/Cpl Macdermott, V.B., reverted to Pte, 5 Sep 42
NX52519 Cpl Rowley, A., trans from Bn HQ to HQ Coy, 5 Sep 42
NX56387 L/Cpl Wiley, J.E.G., prom Cpl, w.e.f. 5 Sep 42.
NX26071 WO i I.Y. Mills appt Lieut and det to HQ 9 Aust Div 25 Aug 42
NX23916 WO ii Maguire, R.G., prom WO i (R.S.M.), 31 Aug 42
NX52544 Sjt Luff, C.J., prom WO ii, w.e.f. 31 Aug 42
NX12356 Capt F.R.K. Staniland, sec for duty, Aust MG Trg Coy 2/9/42
NX15837 Lieut R. Brereton, det to HQ 9 Aust Div (ADC), 1/9/42
NX14551 Lieut F.A. Varley, prom T/Capt, w.e.f. 21 Aug 42
QX16445 Pte Diflo, C.J., det to HQ 9 Aust Div (batman), 1/9/42
NX29868 Pte Conn, J.H., relinq appt spec T/Gp III (dvr-mech), 18/7/42
NX29868 Pte Conn, J.H., appt spec T/Gp II (mech-MT), 18/7/42
NX30317 Pte McLean, R.E., " " " III (dvr-mech), 18/7/42
QX 9313 Pte Purcell, W., relinq spec appt T/Gp III (r'taker), 25/8/42
NX 7335 Pte Clark, A.R., trans to AAMC, 22/8/42
NX 7335 Pte Clark, A.R., att for duty, 22/8/42
QX 1664 Pte Neal, G.H., appt L/Cpl, 27/8/42
VX52519 Pte Anderson, F.V.J., appt L/Cpl 27/8/42
NX25128 L/Sjt Anley, G.W., pro A/S/Sjt, w.e.f. 6/8/42
NX32100 L/Sjt Horan, D.P., prom Sjt, w.e.f. 24/8/42
NX52542 Cpl Ward, F.W.A., apptd L/Sjt w.e.f. 24/8/42
NX20262 L/Cpl Albertson, A.F., prom Cpl, 24/8/42
QX 5464 Pte Rose, A., appt spec T/Gp II (cook), acting, 17/8/42

NX54209 Cpl McLaren, J.M., trans to Finance Sec, HQ AIF, 28/8/42
 QX 1459 A/Cpl Hill, R.J., rank of Cpl confirmed, 28/8/42
 QX18763 Pte Liddell, R.P., appt spec T/Gp III (tech-storer), 24/7/42
 NX55476 Pte Flower, E., relinq appt spec T/Gp II (carpenter), 2/9/42
 NX21487 Pte Moreno, A.J., appt spec T/Gp II (carpenter), 2/9/42
 NX59370 Pte Mavin, R.E., appt A/spec T/Gp II (cook), 18/7/42
 QX 9096 Pte Ward, E.J., prom A/Cpl, 25/8/42
 NX34344 A/Cpl Garland, D.M., reverts to Pte, w.c.f. 1/9/42
 NX49363 Pte Trenholme, G., appt spec T/Gp III (r'taker), 2/8/42

F.A. VARLEY, Capt.
 Adjt., 2/2 Aust Ld Bn

NOTICES

CHURCH PARADE. Church parades for Sunday, 6 Sep 42, are as follows:

Ln. HQ, HQ Coy	0900 hrs
D Coy	1000 hrs
A Coy	1100 hrs
L Coy	1430 hrs
C Coy	1530 hrs

LOST. Marked map, EL ALAMEIN sheet 1:50,000, mounted in a strong wooden frame approx 2'6" x 2'0". Fell from an office truck in convoy at approx 44259032 between 1300 hrs and 1400 hrs 26 Aug 42. The loss is serious, and until it is found and returned to Main HQ 9 Aust Div, security may be imperilled.

Haversack containing messing and toilet articles in area West of Main HQ, 9 Aust Div. Finder please return to DAQMG, 9 Aust Div.

c.o.
NOT TO BE PUBLISHED
AMP & OR 1587

D2
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS LY

(Nos 221 - 230)

LT-COL E. MACARTHUR ONSLOW

COMMANDING

IN THE FIELD
11 Sep 42

2/2 AUST MACHINE GUN BATTALION

221. GROUND TO GROUND RECOGNITION SIGNALS - MT

Our MT carry blue flags for use as recognition signals when challenged. If challenged, MT show a blue flag held horizontally or vertically, as notified from time to time. The flags will not be flown except when answering or anticipating a challenge.

222. FIELD CENSORSHIP - GREEN ENVELOPES

Attention is directed to the certificate on Green Envelopes, which the writer is required to sign, that the contents of the envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters. Reference to other matters, even though not otherwise censorable, is not permitted.
(AIF(ME) Order 1245)

223. DISCIPLINE

The undermentioned sentences by courts-martial are published for information :

(i) A private soldier, convicted of two offences of disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer (AA 9(2)), was sentenced to 60 days field punishment and to forfeit all ordinary pay for a period of 60 days.

(ii) A private soldier, convicted of two offences of obtaining rations by false pretences contrary to Section 32(1) of the Larceny Act 1916 (AA Sec 41), and of an offence of fraudulently misapplying rations, public property (AA 18(4)), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for 23 months. (AIF (ME) Order 1246)

224. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

The following punishments imposed by Courts Martial recently held in this area are published for information :

(i) A private soldier convicted of stealing property belonging to a person subject to military law (S 35) was sentenced to 120 days detention.

(ii) A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged with ignominy.

(iii) A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged.

(iv) A lieutenant convicted of striking a soldier and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (using obscene language to the soldier), was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to the loss of 12 months seniority.

(v) A private soldier convicted of one charge of desertion and two of AWL was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for 18 months and to be discharged.

(vi) A private soldier convicted of three charges of AWL was sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour.

(vii) A Staff Sergeant convicted of neglect to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (negligently leaving a military vehicle unattended in ALEXANDRIA) was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to forfeit 28 days pay.

(viii) A private soldier convicted of failing to appear at a place of parade and disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 90 days Field Punishment with forfeiture of pay for that period.

(9 Aust Div RO No 524)

225. RESTRICTIONS UPON MOVEMENT OUT OF ARMY AREA

All Ranks are forbidden to proceed on or EAST of the CAIRO-ALEXANDRIA Road unless in possession of a duty pass issued by their unit.

226. BLOOD GROUPING - ENTRIES IN PAYBOOKS AND ON IDENTITY DISCS

Coys will examine all paybooks and identity discs to ensure that blood group is shown. Nominal roll of personnel whose blood group is not known will be forwarded to Bn HQ by 1600 hrs 14 Sep 42.

227. FD AMB VEHS - PASSING ON RDS

All MT drs will be instructed to "make-way" for motor ambes at all times. It should be explained to drs that the ambes may be carrying wounded men who should be carried without delay and with the least possible discomfort to the next medical installation. Vehicles meeting an amb on a narrow rd should be driven well over to the side of the rd and if necessary should be driven off the rd and stopped until the amb has passed.

228. FIELD CONDUCT SHEETS

A nominal roll is required from Coys by 1600 hrs 18 Sep 42 of all personnel for whom they hold incomplete or no AF B122s.

229. AUDIT BOARD

An Audit Board as set out hereunder is hereby appointed to conduct the audit of Regimental Trust Funds and Mess Accounts :

T/Capt R.W. CAMERON
Pte SOMERVILLE, R.H.

They will audit the books of the officers and Sjts Messes and the Regimental Trust Funds on the first day of each month.

230. FIELD GENERAL COURT MARTIAL

QX 1706 Pte McDONALD, V.G., was tried by a Field General Court Martial on 30 Aug and 7 Sep 42, on the following charges:
(i) Absenting himself without leave (AA Sec 15(1));
(ii) conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (AA Sec 40) (two charges); (iv) neglect to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (AA Sec 40); (v), when in a place not within his Majesty's dominions committing a civil offence (AA Sec 41).

FINDING: Guilty on charges (i), (ii) and (iii). NOT GUILTY on charges (iv) and (v).

By sentence dated 7 Sep 42, he was sentenced to be imprisoned without hard labour for 15 months.

Confirmation : Confirmed by Lieut-Gen Sir Leslie Morshead, GOC 9 Aust Div, 9 Sep 42.

F.A. VARLEY, Capt
Adjt., 2/2 Aust MG Bn

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS, ETC

QX 8740 Pte Howe, H.C., relinq T/Gp II (cook), 6/9/42
QX 7847 Cpl Penny, R.G., prom A/Sjt, w.e.f. 27/7/42
QX 9313 Pte Purcell, W., prom A/Cpl, w.e.f. 7/9/42
QX 5250 Pte Sanderson, J., prom A/Cpl, w.e.f. 7/9/42
QX 1689 A/Cpl Keating, A.A., reverts to Pte and appt L/Cpl, 7/9/42
NX29838 L/Cpl Hunter, K.M., prom A/Cpl, w.e.f. 7/9/42
NX 7335 Pte Clark, A.R. (AAMC) apptd L/Cpl 9/9/42
NX33039 Pte Chaffey, S.A., trans from C Coy to B Coy 8/9/42
NX59895 Pte Hayes, J.E., " " " " 8/9/42
NX31110 Pte Donohoe, M.J., " " " " 8/9/42
QX10252 Pte Wallen, S.C., " " D Coy " HQ Coy 8/9/42
NX25128 A/S/Sjt Anley, G.W., trans from A Coy to B Coy, 11/9/42
NX45454 Pte Hoggan, A, WOAS disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer (AA Sec 9(2)). Admonished by C.O.

NX34673 Lieut J.G.Cameron, prom Captain
QX 6275 Lieut R.J.Crist, p̄rom Captain.
QX 6262 Lieut R.W.Cameron, appt T/Capt 1 Sep 42.

JEWISH DIVINE SERVICES

Divine Services will be conducted by Chaplain L.H.GOLDMAN on the Jewish New Year, Saturday September 12, at 1000 hrs, and on the Day of Atonement, Monday September 21 at 1730 hrs. Personnel who desire to attend will meet at the LSOs tent at Rear HQ 9 Aust Div at the above stated times. Transport will be arranged for personnel of this Unit desiring to attend. For operational reasons, it will not be possible to hold other Statutory Services during the Holy Days.

CHRISTMAS MAIL

Surface letters, Christmas cards and parcels for the United Kingdom and Eire, intended for delivery by Christmas Day should be posted at Army Post Offices in the Middle East not later than 15 September, 1942.

CHURCH PARADE

There will be no Unit Church Parades on Sunday, 13 Sep, owing to the indisposition of Chaplain Alcorn.

231. POSTAL - CHRISTMAS MAILS

Further to RO No 211 of 5 Sep, it is advised that ordinary air-mail letters and packets addressed to the undermentioned places, intended for delivery by Christmas Day, must be posted at Army Post Offices in the Middle East not later than the dates shown:

U.K. and EIRE	(air/sea route)	19 Oct 42
INDIA	(all air route)	10 Dec 42
SOUTH AFRICA	(all air route)	7 Dec 42
N & S RHODESIA	(all air route)	10 Dec 42
EAST AFRICA	(all air route)	10 Dec 42
SUDAN	(all air route)	15 Dec 42

The air-mail services to AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND are still suspended.

232. CAMOUFLAGE OFFICER

Capt K.S. WRAGGE is appointed Unit Camouflage Officer.

233. CORRESPONDENCE WITH BRITISH PW IN ENEMY HANDS

Under no circumstance will AIF personnel communicating with British prisoners of war in enemy hands disclose Army number, unit or service address. For purpose of reply, the address of a civilian friend of of the British Red Cross, 8 Sharia Malika Farida, Cairo, Egypt, can be given. If the latter course is adopted, the sender should register his or her name with the Officer-in-Charge, Prisoners of War, Wounded and Missing Bureau, at the abovementioned address, so that any replies may be forwarded. Letters should be short to facilitate censorship and avoid unnecessary delay.

234. DEPENDANT'S ALLOWANCE

In conjunction with the recent increase of pay, the rates of dependant's allowance have been revised and on and from 14 August 42 the amounts payable will be automatically increased. The new scale will be in accordance with the following rates:

One dependant	4/6 per day Aust
Two dependants	7/6 per day Aust
Three dependants	9/6 per day Aust
Each additional dependant	1/6 per day Aust.

235. LOSS OF DENTURES

- Too many dentures have been lost in the past three months. Dental Officers working under field conditions are unable to supply large numbers of dentures and preference will be given to personnel not previously supplied.
- In many cases dentures have been lost while swimming. This will not be accepted as an excuse for free replacement.

F.A. VARLEY, Capt
Adjt., 2/2 Aust MG Bn

Immediate Award

The Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Forces, has approved of the following Immediate Award for gallantry in action during the present Egyptian Campaign:

Distinguished Conduct Medal

NX16912 Cpl KNIGHT, Victor Henry,

QX10201 Pte Cochrane, D.C., trans to 1 Aust Con Depot, 12/9/42
 QX 9413 Pte Rinaldi, J., appt A/Gp iii spec (rangotaker), w.e.f 3/9/42
 NX30198 Pte Noble, S., " " " " " " w.e.f. 7/9/42
 NX25453 L/Cpl Street, A.J., " A/Gp ii spec (signaller), w.e.f 12/9/42
 NX27163 Sjt Cockram, H.J.C., attending OCTU, 18 Sep - 14 Nov 42
 NX25982 Sjt Fisk, E.A., trans to AAMC Trg Wing, 17/9/42
 NX23409 L/Sjt Jenkins, L.F., trans from C Coy to En HQ, 17/9/42
 NX14872 Sjt Murrell, H.H., trans to 12 Coy AASC 9 Aust Div, 17/9/42
 NX34011 Pte Sutcliffe, A.G., trans from A Coy to HQ Coy, 16/9/42
 NX21497 Pte Ireland, J.H.S., det from A Coy to HQ Coy, 16/9/42
 NX59266 Pte Beaman, J.A., trans from D Coy to HQ Coy, 16/9/42
 QX13345 Pte Wilson, C.T., " " " " " " HQ Coy to C Coy, 16/9/42
 QX16842 Pte Fraser, D.G.J., " " " " " " " " 16/9/42
 QX14875 Pte Spiller, L.M., " " " " " " HQ Coy to B Coy, 16/9/42
 QX16244 A/Cpl Richardson, C.A.A., reverts to Pte, and apptd L/Cpl, 17/9/42
 QX 8737 Pte Bannah, M.A.E., apptd L/Cpl, 17/9/42
 QX 5964 Pte Young, F.B., trans to Depot Bn., 12/9/42
 QX18177 Pte Bonwick, V.J., appt A/Gp ii spec (signaller), 21/8/42
 QX 7847 A/Sjt Penny, R.G., rank confirmed 9/9/42
 QX 8775 Pte Johnston, A.M., apptd T/Gp iii spec (clerk), w.e.f 17/9/42
 NX23409 L/Sjt Jenkins, L.F., prom A/Sjt, w.e.f. 17/9/42.
 NX56980 Pte Farr, J., WOAS conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, AA 40. Fine £A5 by C.O.

NOTICES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledgement is made of the receipt of the following comforts from the Australian Comforts Fund, for distribution :

75 writing pads, 1000 envelopes, 4 draughts and boards, 8 dominos, 36 playing cards, 100 tooth brushes, 20 pullovers, 36 button cards.

MAILS - DELIVERY IN AUSTRALIA

Advice has been received that mails posted in the Middle East between 8 July 42 and 17 July 42 were received in Melbourne on 1 September 42.

CHURCH SERVICES

Times to be advised later.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED
AMR & O 1587

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS BY
LT-COL E. MACARTHUR ONSLOW
COMMANDING

(Nos 236-239)

2/2 AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BN

IN THE FIELD
25 Sep 42

236. TELEGRAPH LINES

Telegraph poles, insulators and telephone lines whether in use or not, will on no account be removed or converted to uses other than those for which they were designed. All ranks will be impressed with the necessity for maintaining signal equipment intact at all times. (9 Div RO 544)

237. E.F.M. STANDARD TEXTS

In accordance with AIF Order 625, EFM Standard Text No 141, reading: "Sorry to tell you died" cannot be used by members of the AIF.

238. PAYBOOKS - LOSS OF

(a) Attention is directed to AIF (ME) Orders 503 and 876 and in particular to para (b) of 503, which states :-

"Cases of loss occasioned by the negligence or carelessness of the soldier are to be severely dealt with as breaches of military discipline."

(b) Information received indicates that thieving of paybooks by pickpockets in CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA is still prevalent.

(c) All ranks will be reminded that every soldier is responsible for the safe custody of his paybook, and that AIF (ME) Order 503 (b) will be enforced in every case of loss of a paybook.

(9 Div RO 550)

239. STATIONERY

Coys, etc., will forward indents for stationery to bn HQ by 1800 hrs 4 Oct 42. Indents will be based on minimum requirements for TWO months.

F.A. VARLEY, Capt.,
Adjt., 2/2 Aust MG Bn

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS, ETC

NX15994 Cpl Kenyon, J.H., prom A/Sjt w.e.f. 16/9/42
QX15708 Pte Kemp, V.H., appt A/spec T/Gp III (r'taker), w.e.f. 26/8/42
NX32307 L/Cpl Plank, D.L., prom A/Cpl w.e.f. 8/9/42
QX20638 Pte Fisher, K., appt A/spec T/Gp III (dvr-mech), w.e.f. 5/9/42
NX22927 L/Cpl Mills, W.A., prom A/Cpl, w.e.f. 1/9/42
QX 8803 Cpl Forrest, N.E., appt L/Sjt, w.e.f. 22/9/42
QX14579 Pte Leiper, R.J., prom A/Cpl, w.e.f. 18/9/42
QX11386 Pte Martin, F.W., prom A/Cpl, w.e.f. 17/9/42
QX11369 Pte Nicholson, J.L., apptd spec T/Gp III (dvr-mech), 16/9/42
NX15831 WO ii Hughes, D.C., trans to Aust MG Trg Coy 22/9/42
NX55312 S/Sjt Cuddihy, J.C., " " " " " " 22/9/42
NX31340 Cpl Goodland, K.G., " " " " " " 22/9/42
NX30708 L/Sjt Wettone, C.E., " " " " " " 22/9/42
QX 7650 Cpl Carstens, H.E., " " " " " " 22/9/42
NX36942 Pte Lynch, A.A., trans from HQ Coy to A Coy, 22/9/42
WX10407 Pte Tilly, J.C.H.W., trans from HQ Coy to B Coy "
NX32956 Pte Flanagan, R.J., " " B Coy to HQ Coy "

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Receipt is acknowledged from the Australian Comforts Fund on 19 Sep 42 : Writing pads, 24; envelopes, 1000 ; housewives, 50; pencils, 36; boot laces, bundles, 1/ The stationery has been issued to Coys, and housewives and boot laces placed in stock to be issued as required.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS

1. It is advised that parcels lodged for transmission by post must not exceed the following dimensions and weights :-

LENGTH : Maximum 3 feet
GIRTH : Maximum 3 feet, except that where the length is LESS than 3 feet, the GIRTH may be increased until LENGTH plus GIRTH measures 6 ft. (e.g., a parcel 3 feet long may measure 1 foot wide x 6 inches high ; a parcel 2 feet long may measure 1 foot wide x 1 foot high).

WEIGHT : Maximum 11 lbs.

2. Articles weighing up to 16 ozs may be registered ; it is recommended that all small articles are so registered.

3. Cost of parcels :

Under 4 oz, free

Table with 4 columns: Weight (oz), Weight (lb), Length (mm), and Rate (e.g., 7 mm (2d), 10 mm (3d), 14 mm (4d), 20 mm (6d), 30 mm (9d), 40 mm (1/-), 50 mm (1/3), 60 mm (1/6), 80 mm (1/9)).

STATIONERY

Stationery will be issued to the stationery to be used on minimum requirements for Coy, etc. Indents will be used on minimum requirements for two months.

T.A. VARLEY, Capt., Adjut., 2/5 Anst MG Bn

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS, ETC.

- List of personnel appointments and transfers including names like Cpl Kenyon, Cpl Kemp, Cpl Plank, etc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Receipt is acknowledged from the Australian Comforts Fund on 19 Sep 42: Writing pads, 24; envelopes, 1000; housewives, 50; pencils, 36; foot laces, 100; The stationery has been issued to Coy, and housewives and foot laces placed in stock to be issued as required.

UNIT CHRISTMAS SHOP

Conceived by the Bn 2 i/c, MAJOR G.A. SEARLE, the Christmas Mobile Shop was one of the Unit's most successful ventures. The turnover amounted to £E1774.83 (approx £A2218)

Pte John IRELAND (formerly an A Coy driver), who was in civil life a softgoods salesman), was placed in charge of the shop. He and Major Searle made the initial buying trip on 17 September, when a connection was established with HANNAUX, one of the principal firms in ALEXANDRIA.

The range of goods purchased - cash was paid, with the Coy allowing the return of unsold goods later - was very wide, and was of very good quality. Much of the dress goods, etc., was of American manufacture. Some of the French dress lengths still available were included.

Dress lengths, stockings, underwear (and material for the making of underwear), blouses, skirt lengths, dressing gowns, linen, towels, scarves, gloves, pyjamas, handbags, handkerchiefs, were among the "lines" which made beautiful presents for the women folk, while pipes, slippers, pyjamas, haberdashery, and toys catered for the fathers and brothers, and for the children, who also had special cloths set aside for the making of playsuits, etc.

It was a remarkably complete range, particularly for presents designed for women, and themen gave the shop a warm welcome. On the first day about 40 members of D Coy spent nearly £500, and a second visit had to be made to this Coy later.

Pte IRELAND was assisted in the shop by Pte Keith CROMMELIN, who acted as cashier. Besides operating it at B Coy and D Coy in the reserve areas, and at Bn HQ, they took the truck up to A Coy and C Coy, in the fwd areas. It was planned to have a "moonlight" shopping night for A Coy, but this was found to be too difficult, from many points. The shop was set up at Coy HQ, and the men came in from the posns when they could.

The whole of C Coy was put through in six hours by intensive salesmanship. The shop was under shellfire for a time during the morning of its visit to this Company.

Pte IRELAND also took individual orders for special gifts, which he endeavoured to fulfil - and in most cases succeeded.

Capt Frank HURLEY, of the Australian Photographic Unit, filmed the shop in action at C Coy, and also took special photographs of it at Bn HQ, for inclusion in his Christmas film for exhibition in Australia. Some of his still pictures have already appeared in the AIF News.

In all five buying trips were made to Grand Magasins HANNAUX at ALEXANDRIA, and the connection with this firm has been maintained since in the buying of special goods for the Unit Canteen, which has been greatly enlarged and improved.

M. Peacock
1.0.

APPX 'F'

SECRET

Rear HQ 9 Aust Div.
Ref: A51/1/834
6 Sep '42.

337/53/1

NOTED
G.O.
2 i/c.
Adj.
Q.M.
M.O.
I.O.
T.O.
R.S.M.

PRESENTATION OF DECORATIONS

1. Decorations awarded to the members of 9 Aust Div vide attached list will be presented to the recipients by GOC AIF MIDDLE EAST at Main HQ 9 AUSTR DIV at 1500 hrs Monday 7 Sep '42.

2. ASSEMBLY:
Main HQ 9 Aust Div Car Park at 1445 hrs.

3. TRANSPORT:
Minimum transport will be used to convey personnel to assembly area. To ensure this, arrangements will be made by Bdes and equivilent units for personnel concerned to be transported under Bde arrangements.

4. DRESS:
Officers - Shorts, shirt, boots, puttees, hats, belt. Pistols will be worn.
ORs - Shorts, shirt, boots, puttees, hats, belt(web).

[Signature]
Col
A.L. & Q.M.G., 9 Aust Div

Distribution:-

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| 9 Aust Div Cav Regt | (1) | 2/3 Aust Fd Amb | (1) |
| RAA 9 Aust Div | (6) | 'G' | (1) |
| RAE 9 Aust Div | (1) | 'AQ' | (1) |
| 20 Aust Inf Bde | (3) | ADMS | (1) |
| 24 Aust Inf Bde | (4) | War Diary | (2) |
| 26 Aust Inf Bde | (4) | File | (1) |
| 2/2 MG Bn | (1) | | |

T.C.
R.

337/53/1

NOTED
C.O. _____
2/c _____
Adj. _____
Q.M. _____
M.O. _____
I.O. _____
T.O. _____
R.S.M. _____

RECIPIENTS OF DECORATIONS TO BE PRESENTED on 7 SEP '42

C.B.E.

 Brig. A.H. RAMSAY C.R.A., 9 Aust Div.

O.B.E.

 Lt.-Col. R.J.H. RISSON C.R.E., 9 Aust Div.

D.S.O.

 Lt.-Col. D.A. WHITEHEAD, M.C. 2/32 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.
 --- Maj. D.R. JACKSON 2/3 Aust Fd Amb.
 --- Maj. F.D. STEPHENS

M.C.

 SX 9364, Capt. M.R. JEANES 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- SX 9822, Capt. J.D. GORDON 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- SX 10317, Capt. C.F. WILLIAMS 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 43794, Capt. H.G. FYFFE 9 Aust Div Cav Regt.
 --- VX 37109, Lieut. K.C. CLARKE 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 38918, Lieut. W.C. HARDING 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 27876, Lieut. G.Mc A. THIRLWELL 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 27754, Lieut. A.G. AUSTIN 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- SX 9328, Lieut. H.E.Y BELL 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 30994, Lieut. J.F. Mc NAMARA 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 14442, Lieut. G. STEWART 2/12 Aust Fd Regt.
 --- VX 14425, Lieut. A.B. CASSIDY 2/12 Aust Fd Regt.

D.C.M.

 NX 25805, Lieut. R.V. ROBERTS 3 Aust A Tk Regt.
 --- SX 7338, Sgt. PRYOR, W.E. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 42434, A/Sgt. HUGHES, W.T. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- NX 40585, L/Sgt. D.A. DALEY 3 Aust A Tk Regt.
 --- NX 60163, Bdr. COTTERILL, R.H. 3 Aust A Tk Regt.
 --- NX 16912, Cpl. KNIGHT, V.H. 2/2 Aust MG Bn.
 --- QX 3026, Cpl. LEESON, H.T. 2/32 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- NX 40595, Bdr. McMAHON, J.T. 3 Aust A Tk Regt.
 --- TX 2238, Gnr. KINGHORN, A.J. 2/8 Aust Fd Regt.
 --- SX 10570, Pte. ASHBY, H.H. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.

M.M.

 VX 48692, W.O.I NICOLL, J.A. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 26678, W.O.II RODEN, J.B. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- NX 25154, Sgt. LONGHURST, A.W. 2/2 Aust MG Bn.
 --- SX 6339, Sgt. SHEPARDSON, E.W. 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- NX 11889, Sgt. GARNSEY, K.A. 2/32 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- SX 7808, Sgt. WESTON, J.K., DCM 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- SX 7996, Sgt. JACKA, C.R. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 26749, L/Sgt. BOON, A. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 48276, Cpl. DUNN, F.B. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- NX 16060, Cpl. GLEESON, W.P. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- SX 11128, L/Cpl HOLMAN, J.T. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- SX 10558, L/Cpl MADDOCKS, J.G.S. 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- SX 6162, L/Cpl WRIGHT, A.S. 2/43 Aust Inf Bn.
 --- VX 17751, L/Bdr STEELE, G. 2/12 Aust Fd Regt.
 --- VX 14010, L/Bdr DENNIS, C.A. 2/8 Aust Fd Regt.
 --- NX 24295, Bdr. ANDREWS, N.S.L. 4 Aust Lt A.A. Regt.

P.T.O.

M.M. (Contd)

VX 57804,	Pte. TAGGART, E.	--	2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
SX 6842,	Pte. FRANKLIN, D.	--	2/43 Aust Inf Bn.
SX 5282,	Pte DEAN, H.J.	--	2/43 Aust Inf Bn.
SX 7835,	Pte. DUFFIELD, C.W.	--	2/48 Aust Inf Bn.
VX 45046,	Pte. HYNES, D.T.	--	2/32 Aust Inf Bn.
WX 12098,	Pte. LANGFORD, T.	--	2/32 Aust Inf Bn.
VX 40142,	Pte. CLAFFEY, R.P.	---	2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
SX 5034,	Tpr. MASTERTON, W.W.	--	9 Aust Div Cav Regt.
WX 4838,	Gnr. MANNING, A.R.	--	2/7 Aust Fd Regt.
SX 6852,	Gnr. HILL, T.P.	--	2/7 Aust Fd Regt.
VX 52935,	Pte. DWYER, A.J.	--	2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
NX 6535,	Dr. WEBB, R.E.	--	2/3 Aust Fd Amb.
NX 10157,	Dr. LOGAN, H.W.	--	2/3 Aust Fd Amb.

NOTED

C.O.
2i/c
Adj.
Q.M.
M.O.
I.O.
T.O.
R.S.M.



APPA
"G" 1

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

by

**General Hon. Sir HAROLD R. L. G. ALEXANDER, K.C.B., C.S.I.,
D.S.O., M.C.,
Commander-in-Chief, The Middle East Forces**

General Headquarters,
Middle East.
2nd September, 1942.

I have received the following message from H.M. The King:—

"I pray that God may Bless the Desert Army in the important battle which has now begun, from which great results may flow to the cause of the United Nations in every part of the World.

I have the utmost confidence in my Troops from all parts of my Empire and in their Commanders.

All my thoughts are with you.

GEORGE R.I."

The following reply has been sent to H.M. The King:—

"I have conveyed to all ranks under my Command Your Majesty's gracious and encouraging message which is highly appreciated.

Your Majesty may rest assured that we shall do our duty."

H. R. Alexander

G 2

General Headquarters,
Middle East Forces.

31st August, 1942.

NOTED	
C.O.
2 i/c.
Adjt.
Q.M.
M.O.
I.O.
T.O.
R.S.M.

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SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

The German/Italian Forces are trying to force their way into the Delta to capture Cairo and Alexandria and drive us from Egypt.

It is the duty of every officer and soldier to stand firm and fight the enemy wherever he may find him, regardless of the cost.

The results of the whole war may well depend on how we conduct ourselves in this great battle. As brothers in arms we must have confidence in ourselves, in each other, and in our weapons and determination to win or die. This is the fighting spirit which will give us victory.

SOLDIERS ! DO YOUR DUTY.

H. R. Alexander

General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Middle East Forces.

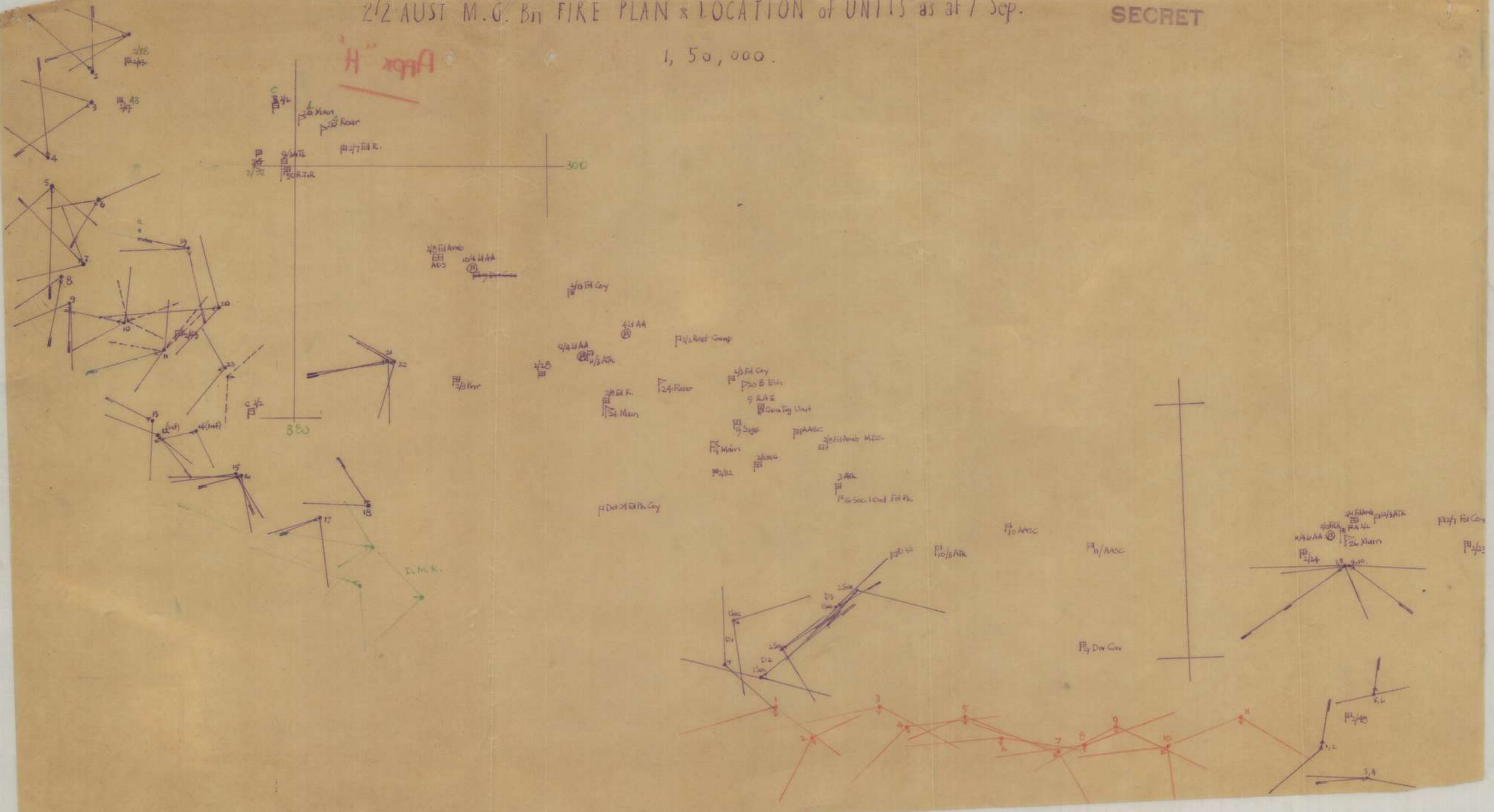
GHQP/6,600/8-42

2/2 AUST M.G. Bn FIRE PLAN & LOCATION of UNITS as at 7 Sep.

SECRET

1,50,000.

After H.

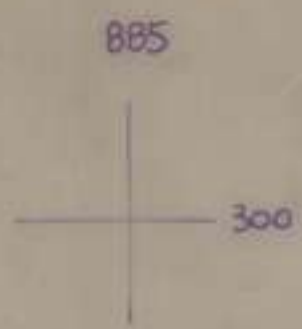
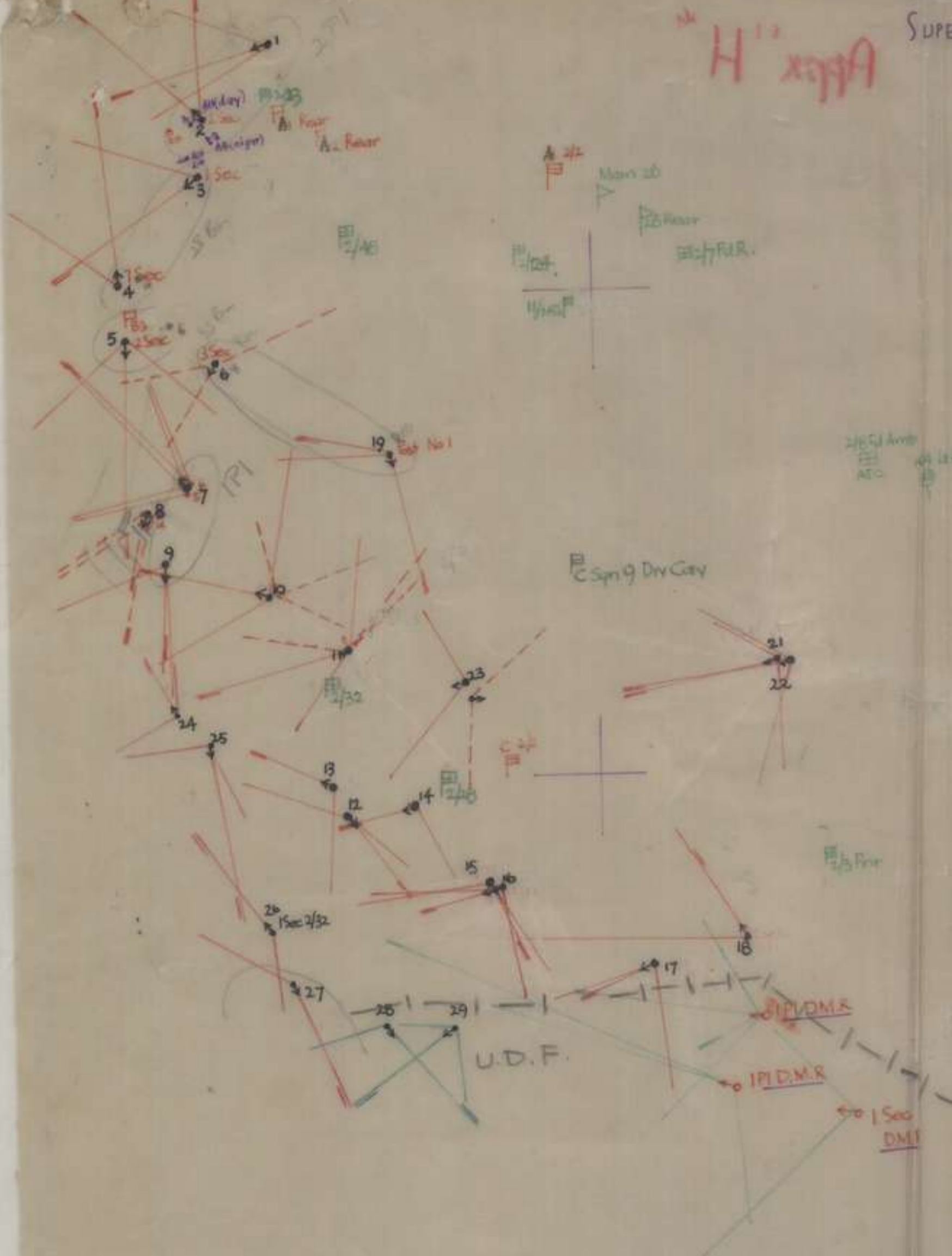


2/2 AUST G. Bn FIRE PLAN as at 8 Sep 42

SUPERIMPOSE ON EL ALAMEIN & EL QASABA

1: 50,000

H¹¹ Alex



2/9 Fd Coy

20 Rest Camp

2/5 Coy

F/10

F/13

F/4 Rear

F/4

F/5

F/6

F/7

F/8

F/9

F/10

F/11

F/12

F/13

F/14

F/15

Locations of units as 7/11/42 Location Statement No 18 25 42

SECRET

2/9 Fd Coy

20 Rest Camp

2/5 Coy

F/10

F/13

F/4 Rear

F/4

F/5

F/6

F/7

F/8

F/9

F/10

F/11

F/12

F/13

F/14

F/15



F/12 AASC

F/11 AASC

2/10 AASC

2/11 AASC

F/10 4000 ft

F/11

900

450

F/15

E. J. Cox
2/2 Aust M.G. Bn
8 Sep 42. Revised 26 Sep.

M.M.G. FIRE PLAN & 9 Div dispositions

As at 20 Aug 42

900
910
920
930
940
950



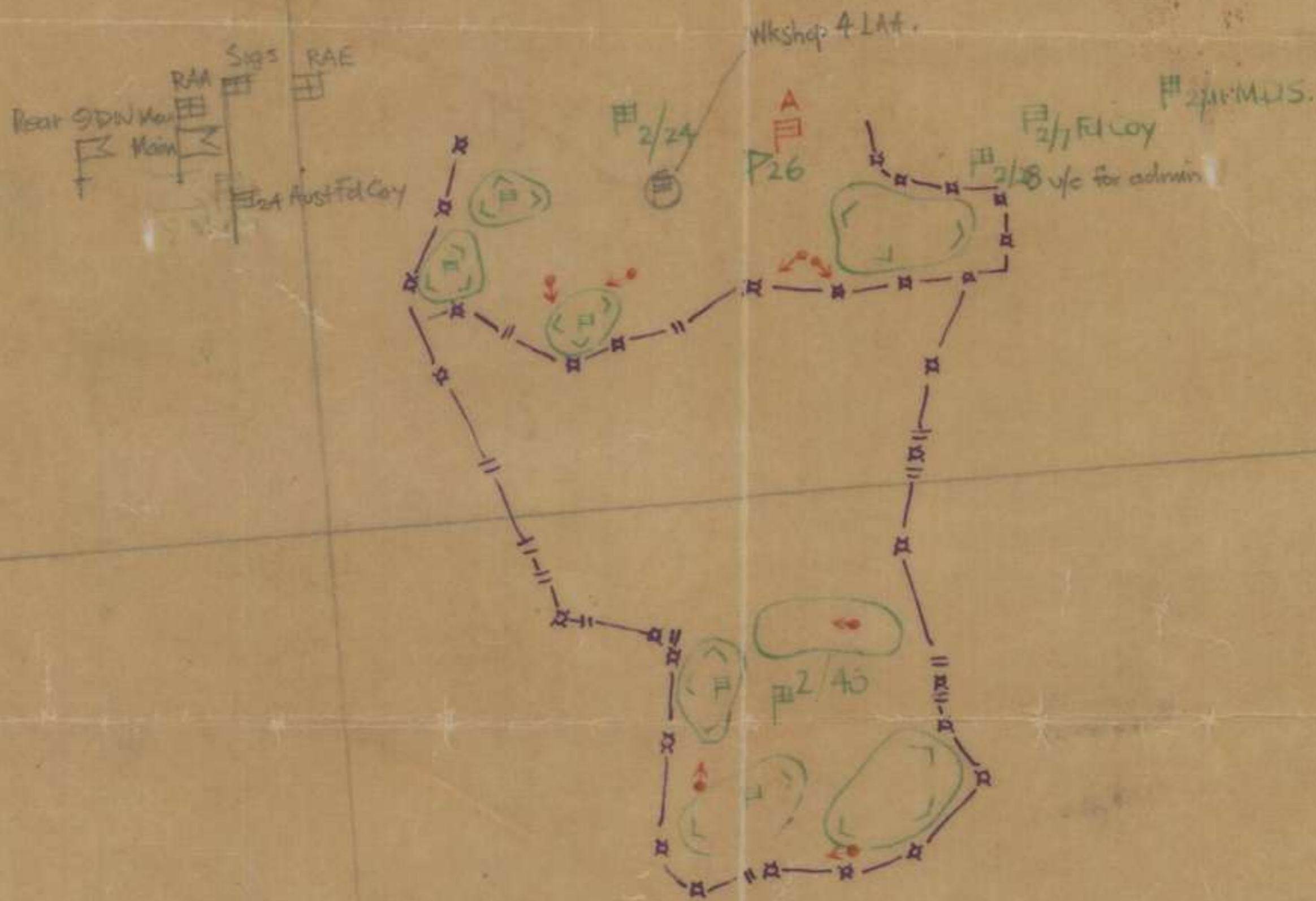
Legend

- Arc of fire / Fixed line ----- M.M.G.
- 35 ----- Strong posts
- () ----- Inf posn
- X ----- Minefields

Revised 20 Aug.

E. J. Curt 4 Aug 42

430



E.J. C. [unclear]
 [unclear]
 6 Aug 42

2/2 Aust M.G. Bn dispositions in Red.



NOTED
CO. _____
1/c. _____
djt. _____
Q.M. _____
M.O. _____
I.O. _____
T.O. WDW _____
R.S.M. _____

ack. 17/20/42

400/55/1

Appx I
pl's Hank

G742/60/2

SECRET

9 AUST DIV OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Copy No
17 Sep 42

Ref EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

1. (a) 1 SA Div (3 SA Bde) is moving FDLs fwd on night 18/19 Sep in conformity with 9 Aust Div (24 Aust Inf Bde). Pt of junc incl 3 SA Bde BIR EL MAQBU'A 879292.
- (b) 1 SA Div (3 SA Bde) is taking over 9 Aust Div (24 Aust Inf Bde) FDLs to incl QATTARA Rd on night 20/21 Sep.

2. Bndys

- (a) For period night 18/19 Sep to night 20/21 Sep. All incl 9 Aust Div - Trig 33 876288 - excl BIR EL MAQBU'A minefield gap 88022929 - thence old bndy.
- (b) After take over on night 20/21 Sep. Excl 9 Aust Div - QATTARA Rd to minefield at 87822939 - incl minefield to 88092929 thence old bndy.

A C K N O W L E D G E

Issued through Sigs and LO

Time of signature 1340 hrs

[Signature]
for Col
GS 9 Aust Div

DISTRIBUTION

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20 Aust Inf Bde	1
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9 Aust Div Cav Regt	4
RAA	5
RAE	6
Sigs	7
2/2 Aust MG Bn	8
C Sqn 40 RTR	9
30 Corps	10
1 SA Div	11
3 SA Bde	12
Comd	13
G	14 - 15
Q	16
File	17 - 18
War Diary	19 - 20
Spares	21 - 25