

AWM52

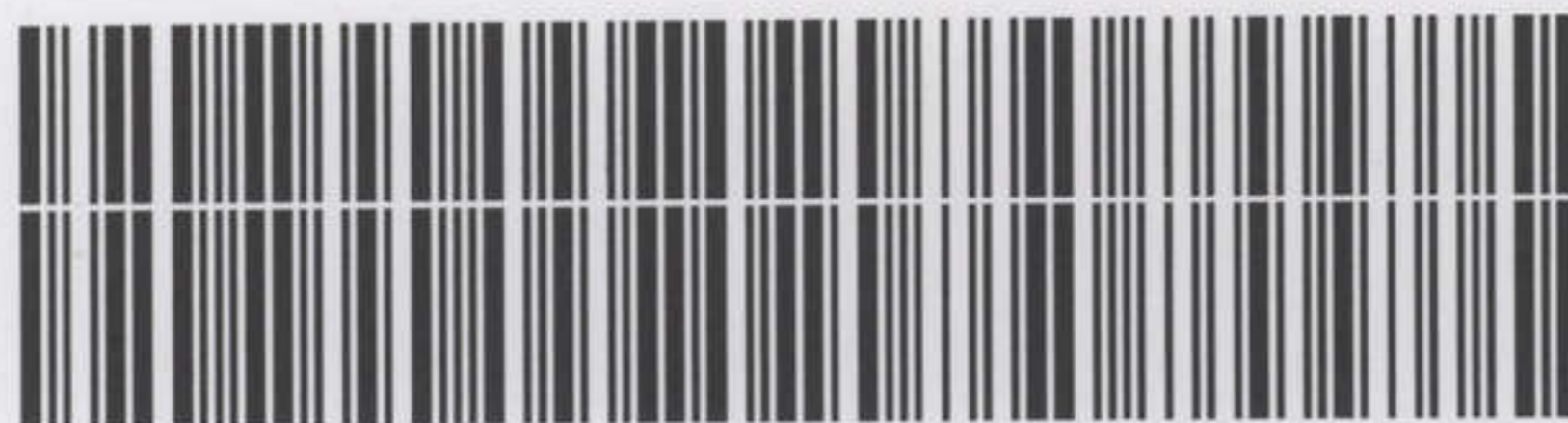
**2nd AIF (Australian Imperial Force) and CMF
(Commonwealth Military Forces) unit war diaries,
1939-45 War**

Miscellaneous - POW
Independent Companies

Item number: 25/3/1/4

Title: 1 Independent Company

December 1941 to February 1942



AWM52-25/3/1/4

25/3/1/4

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

DECEMBER 1941

TO

FEBRUARY 1942

ORIGINAL

**PHOTOCOPYING
NOT PERMITTED**

NO. 2 SECTION A PLATOON
I INDEPENDENT COMPANY
VIL/A DETACHMENT
NEW HEBRIDES

34/11/42.

30 JAN 1942

Army Form C.2
(adapted.)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NO. 2 Section, (A.I.F. (Erase heading not required)
 "A" Platoon, (DETACHMENT)
 Unit No. 1 Indep Coy. (VILA New Hebrides) Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs To 1400 hrs
 5th Dec. 41 To 29 Dec 41.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
VILA	5 Dec 41	0600	Arrival "Morinda" carrying main body main body A.I.F. Detachment for Vila	
VILA	5 Dec 41	0930	Disembarkation of main body A.I.F. Detachment Vila and march to Billets. All personnel landed fit and well.	
VILA	5 Dec 41	0100) to 1700)	Unloading Stores from "Morinda" to Burns Philp Wharf.	
VILA	6 Dec 41	0900) to 1700)	Transferring Stores from Burns Philp Wharf to Billets.	
VILA	7 Dec 41	1200	Instructions Received From 8 MD Port Moresby to Stand By for all Emergencies.	
VILA	7 Dec 41	1700	Testing all Machine Guns (Bren and Vickers) attached to Detachment and R.A.A.F. A.O.B at Pointe Du Malapoa.	
VILA	8 Dec 41		Preparations made for erection of A/A Posts at Military H.Q. and at various posts in town area of Military importance. Labour gang organised for filling of sandbags. Estimated 60,000 sandbags needed.	
VILA	12 Dec 41	0900	30 days Emergency Ration (Reserve) placed in R/V point. Detailed summary of rations attached.	
VILA	15 Dec 41	1200	First Draft personnel for N.H.D.F. taken into Camp. (14 Privates) Copy of Nominal Roll of Draft attached.	
VILA	15 Dec 41	1700	Completed filling 60,000 sandbags.	
Vila	16 Dec 41	0700	First Cadre Course N.H.D.F. commenced training.	
VILA	16 Dec 41	1200	Draft personnel for N.H.D.F. taken into Camp. 5 Privates. Copy of Nominal Roll of Draft Attached.	
VILA	20 Dec 41	1000	Reserve stores for Vila civilian population transported to R/V point. ENGINE Construction of store-rooms commenced.	
VILA	22 Dec 41	2000	Meeting of all prospective Home Guard Personnel. 63 Members signed Roll.	
VILA	25 Dec 41	0900	Recce. to Devil's point by O.C. Capt. A.L. Goode with view to establishing Observation Post.	
VILA	29 Dec 41	1400	Addition of one personnel to N.H.D.F. Personnel now undergoing training in first Cadre Course 20.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

No. 2 Section (A.I.F.)
 "A" Platoon (DETACHMENT (Erase heading not required)) 0500 hrs
 No. 1 Indep Coy (VILA NEW HERRIDES) 30 Dec 41 To 2359 Hrs
 Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To 31 Dec 41

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
VILA	XXXX 30 Dec 41	0500	Arrival from Sydney of "Morinda" carrying stores for A.I.F. DETACHMENT AND N.H.D.F.	
Vila	30 Dec 41	0900	Transporting from "Morinda" to Barracks party 1 officer 10 other ranks i/c Capt W.E. Luke. (Special Guard for Japanese Internees.	
	31 Dec 41	0700 to 2359	Unloading stores from "Morinda". Stores for N.H.D.F. transported to Coffee Mill. STORES FOR A.I.F. STORED AT MILITARY H.Q.	

TELEPHONE

War Diary

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.—~~SOUTHERN~~ ^{NORTHERN} COMMAND

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. **LETTER NO. 12**

H.Q.,
AIF Detachment,
VILA

30/11/41

The British Resident Commissioner,
VILA

Your Honour,

Having considered the numerical strength and structure of the Defence Forces to be raised, I would recommend that the Q.M.G. and M.G.O. Department of the Australian Military Forces be requisitioned immediately for the following Arms, equipment, rations and clothing by radio as under :--

1. PROPOSED GARRISON FORCE (1) EUROPEAN PERSONNEL (Approx 12)

a. Arms

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Service Rifles (with bayonets)	12
Pistols	12
Sets Web Equipment	12
Haversacks	12
Service Packs	12
Helmets Steel	12
Respirators	12
Water Bottles	12
Issue Plates	24
" Pannikins	12
" knives (dining)	15
" Spoons (dessert)	15
" Forks (dining)	15
" Mess tins and Holders	15

b. Clothing

	<u>issue</u>	<u>Replacements</u>	<u>Total</u>
Shirts Khaki	2	2	48
Shorts "	2	2	48
Long Stockings	3	2	60
Singlets athletic	3	2	60
Towels	2	2	48
Capes waterproof	1	-	12
Groundsheets	1	-	12
Sun Helmets	1	-	12
Boots H.D.	2pr	2pr	48pr
Laces Boot		<u>QUANTITY</u>	
Puttees short	1	1	24

2. PROPOSED MILITIA FORCE (approx 30)

a. Issue Arms and Equipment as for Garrison Force

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Service Rifles (with bayonets)	33
Sets Web Equipment	33
Haversacks	33
Service PACK Packs	33
Helmets Steel	33
Respirators	33
Water Bottles	33

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
NO.....

--3--

The British Resident Commissioner

Service Rifles and bayonets and sets of Web equipment and helmets steel should be ordered forthwith.

RATIONS (EUROPEAN)
WEEKS

I recommend that six (6) ~~months~~ Current and six (6) months Reserve rations for all European Personnel totalling approximately 42 be requisitioned for.

RATIONS (NATIVE TROOPS)

I recommend that the following rations be requisitioned for on a basis of 130 personnel on a six (6) weekly current and six (6) monthly reserve basis, as under :--

Ration allowance per man Weekly

RICE	8 lb
TEA	2 oz
TOBACCO (as issued to P.I.B.)	2 pkts
SALT	2 Oz
Jam	8 oz

GRAND TOTAL OF REQUISITIONSa. Arms and Equipment

Service pistols	12
Service Rifles and bayonets	205
Sets Web equipment	200
Haversacks	200
Service Packs	170
Helmets Steel	200
Respirators	170
Water Bottles	170
Issue plates	94
Enamel Soup Plates	130
Issue Pannikins	175
" Knives (dining)	50
" Spoons (dessert)	200
" Forks (dining)	50
Mess Tins and holders	175
Knives Clasp	125
" " Lanyard	125
Cup Dischargers Grenade	14

b. Clothing

	<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>REPLACEMENTS</u>
Shirts khaki	322	322
Shorts khaki	322	322
Long Stockings	405	405
Singlets athletic	405	405
Towels	304	304
Capes Waterproof	165	-
Ground sheets	165	≅ 13
Bun Helmets	45	-
Boots H.D.	84	84
Haces Boot		

QUANTITY

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
NO.

The British Resident Commissioner

	<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>REPLACEMENTS</u>
Puttees short	45	12
Forage caps khaki	120	10

AMMUNITION

I recommend that 300,000 rounds of .303 calibre ammunition be requisitioned for. Of this quantity an operational reserve of 200,000 rounds to be always maintained in addition to approximately 7,000 rounds now held in your store. The above amount to include ~~an~~ a proportionate number of Tracer estimated at ~~10,000~~ 10,000. Also .455 calibre ammunition on a basis of 100 rounds per pistol equalling 1200 rounds. Hand grenades on a basis of 2 per man and 200 for rifle mortars giving a total of 500.

I would further suggest, if it can be arranged, having regard to weight, that portion of the arms, equipment and clothing be forwarded by R.A.A.F. plane immediately as the formation and efficient training of the forces being raised will be hampered without same. There is sufficient ammunition being held by the A.I.F. detachment and R.A.A.F. at A.O.B. to meet all emergencies at the present moment. A quantity of 500 Ballistite cartridges is also required.

I further recommend that two typewriters are necessary for office work. Details of other stationery, signals equipment and engineering requirements will be supplied as soon as A.I.F. signals and engineering detachments arrive. Any other details you may require will be supplied on your request.

In addition to the above I recommend that one blanket for all ranks be requisitioned for immediately as this is the summer period, a further blanket could be requisitioned for and issued when required.

Ch. J. J. J.
..... Capt.

O.C. A.I.F. TROOPS VILA

30/ NOV 41.

COPIES TO :-- H.Q., 8 M.D.
H.Q., No. 1 Indep Coy.
War Diary
File

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No.

The British Resident Commissioner (cont)

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Issue Plates	70
Issue Pannikins	33
" Knives (dining)	35
" Spoons (dessert)	35
" Forks (dining)	35
" Mess tins and holders	35
Cups Discharger Grenade	4

b. Issue clothing as per Garrison Force

Issue INCLUDING REPLACEMENTS

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Shirts khaki	120
Shorts khaki	120
Long stockings	150
Singlets athletic	150
Towels	120
Capes waterproof	33
Sun helmets	33
Ground Sheets	33
Boots H.D.	120
Laces boots	33
Puttees short	33

3. PROPOSED GARRISON FORCE -- NATIVE (strength approx 120)

a. Arms and Equipment

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Service Rifles (with bayonets)	130
Sets Web Equipment	125
Haversacks	125
Service PACKS Packs	125
Helmets steel	125
Respirators	125
Water bottles	125
Enamel Soup plates	130
Issue Pannikins	130
Spoons dessert	150
Mess Tins & holders	125
KM Knives clasp	125
" " Lanyard	125
Cups Discharger Grenade	10

b. Clothing as per Garrison Force issue

Issue INCLUDING REPLACEMENTS

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Shirts khaki	480
Shorts khaki	480
Long Stockings	480
Singlets	600
Towels	480
Capes waterproof	120
Ground Sheets	130
Forage Caps khaki	130

ahj.

As it is not yet known what the numerical strength of the Proposed Volunteer Defence Force will be, I suggest that 30 additional

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

1st Recon Coy Section
1st Indep Coy (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	1		
Lieutenants			
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	2		

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1 Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	2 Personal Number.	3 Name and Initials.	4 Corps.	5 Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	6 If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Capt	23711	GOODE, H.K.		Yes	
Lieut	23422	Watson, W.D.		Yes	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.

W. J. Baker
 (Unit.)
 19/11/41
 (Date of Despatch.)

W. J. Baker
 (Signature of Commander.)
 8 M.D.
 (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

WAR DIARY
Nov Section
A Platoon Northway Coy.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

..... (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	1		
Lieutenants			
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	2.		

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Not sectioned & position
Not group key AIF Detachment HQ
New Hebrides

(Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	1		
Lieutenants			
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	2		

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

1st Lt
Platoon 1st Infantry (Unit)
1st Lt
Detachment
1st Lt

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors			
Captains	1		
Lieutenants			
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	2		

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

CAMP STANDING ORDERS

by

CAPT. A.L. GOODE, O.C. A.I.F. DETACHMENT,
5th DEC 41. PART 1.

VILA.

1. FAMILIARITY WITH ORDERS It is the duty of all ranks to make themselves with Camp Standing Orders.
2. DUTIES Duties will be detailed daily as required.
3. UNIFORM Tropical Dress will be worn at all times unless otherwise ordered.
Shirts will not be removed in the Mess Room.
4. LIGHTS Lights will not be permitted in Sleeping Quarters after lights out.
5. INTOXICATING LIQUOR Intoxicating liquor will not be consumed in the sleeping quarters.
6. UNIT M.T. Motor Transport will not be used for other than Military purposes.
7. HYGIENE The camp area must be kept clean and free from refuse. All Refuse must be deposited in the receptacles or placed provided.
8. KITCHENS. No person other than the cook's staff will be allowed to enter the kitchens.
9. FOOD All food and food-stuffs are to be protected from flies by the use of suitable lids or coverings.
Personnel are warned that the throwing of food in the messes will not be permitted.
10. ABLUTION Under no circumstances will men wash in or near sleeping quarters. All ablutions are to be carried out at places set aside for the purpose.
11. LATRINES. Indiscriminate defecation and urination will not be tolerated. Offenders will be severely dealt with.
12. FIRE ORDERS Fire orders will be posted up on Camp Notice Board and ALL RANKS must make themselves familiar with these.
13. DEFICIENCIES Deficiencies in clothing, equipment and technical and camp stores, or damage to same must be promptly reported. Reports must be made to H.Q. when necessary action will be taken.
14. CUSTODY OF STORES All ranks to whom articles of clothing, equipment and stores are issued will be held responsible for the care and custody of such stores.
15. SICKNESS Personnel who contract a sickness will parade at Sick Parade to Medical Corporal. In the event of serious illness, advice from one of the local Doctors will be sought by the Medical Corporal and acted on accordingly.
16. INJURIES. In case of injury, treatment is to be immediately sought from the Medical Corporal and then reported to H.Q. A full description of the accident will be made out, action taken and names of witnesses.

SUBJECT

17. TELEPHONE

H.Q. telephone is for official use only except in exceptional circumstances when permission for use may be granted.

18. COURTS OF ENQUIRY

The ~~officers~~ following officers will constitute a Court of Enquiry, as required :-

PRESIDENT	--	CAPT. A.L. GOODE
MEMBER	--	LIEUT. W.D. WATSON

19. ALARM

On sounding of A/A alarm all troops will turn out to their allotted stations. First person sighting aircraft will sound alarm.

20. POSTAL

All letters will be handed into H.Q. for censoring, regularly.

21. WATER

Conservation of water will be practiced at all times.

22. LEAVE

Leave may be ~~granted~~ granted at the discretion of the O.C.

23. CANTEEN AND RECREATION ROOM

These will be used only at times laid down in issue of daily routine. Rowdiness will not be permitted as sleeping quarters are in close proximity.

24. ORDERLY ROOM

Troops will not pass through orderly room except when essential.

25. ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

Arms, spare parts, tools and ammunition will be obtained only by requisition to G.S.N.

26. PETROL DUMPS

Naked lights will not be used by or near petrol dumps.

27. READING AND REST ROOM.

This room will be used only for reading and writing.

Ch. J. ...

.....Capt
O.C. A.I.F. DETACHMENT VILA

57 DEC 41

SUBJECT:

MINUTE PAPER

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

TELEPHONE—

Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

LETTER NO. 23.

Address

Date

H.Q.
A.I.F. DETACHMENT
VILA

His Honour,
The British Resident Commissioner,
VILA

Sir,

I submit herewith my appreciation as to how the Defence Forces being raised here could best be utilised in an emergency.

I trust that the opinions expressed are similar to your own ideas in this matter.

W. J. Ford

.....Capt
O.C. A.I.F. DETACHMENT VILA

14 DEC 41.

Enc. 1 Appreciation of Roles to be Adopted by N.H. Defence Forces.

TELEPHONE—

Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

LETTER NO. 23

Address

Date

H.Q.
A.I.F. DETACHMENT
VILA.

His Honour,
The French Resident Commissioner,
VILA

Sir,

I submit herewith my appreciation as to how the Defence Forces being raised here could best be utilised in an emergency.

I trust that the opinions expressed are similar to your own ideas in this matter.

A.H. Jordan

.....Capt

O.C., A.I.F. DETACHMENT VILA

16/ DEC 41.

Enc. 1 Appreciation of Roles to be Adopted by N.H.D.F.

WAR PLAN
APPRECIATION OF ROLES TO BE ADOPTED BY N.H. DEFENCE FORCES.

1. GARRISON FORCE AND FULL TIME MILITIA.

This force will become the striking and front line defence force.

Its tasks will be :--

1. In the event of aerial bombardment to :--

- a. man A/A machine gun posts.
- b. supply A/A controlled rifle fire.

2. In the event of an attempted invasion from the sea, possibly with air co-operation and support to :--

- a. man machine gun posts.
- b. supply controlled rifle defensive fire.
- c. endeavour to repel the invader with bayonet and grenade.
- d. supply A/A rifle and M.G. fire.
- e. if necessary, to cover the withdrawal of the civil population.
- f. withdraw, if pressure is too great to prepared evacuation point and prevent enemy from establishing himself by means of harassing attacks.
- g. protect the civil population at the evacuation point, and to stave off the invader until succour arrives from outside.

3. In the event of parachute landings :--

- a. to engage the enemy with A A and rifle fire, and if the enemy succeeds in establishing himself in this way to adopt procedure as laid down in sub-para (2)

2. VOLUNTEER DEFENCE FORCE (HOME GUARD)

This force will become the second line defence force.

Its tasks will be :--

1. In the event of aerial bombardment to act as A.R.P. Wardens. First Aid knowledge will be required for this. Those V.D.C. members not engaged in A.R.P. work will provide additional A/A rifle fire. Rifles and ammunition will be issued as soon as available, also web x equipment.
2. In the event of invasion from the sea, with possibly co-operative air support, to again adopt emergency role as A.R.P. Wardens (stretcher bearers etc.). Supervise supply cover party for civil evacuation. They will also control mobilisation and utilisation of transport.
3. In the event of parachute landings with attendant air bombardment to carry out role as in sub-para (2) above.

It will be seen from Para 2, that the training of the V.D.C. will be limited to :--

1. Use of rifle, both in A/A and ground defence.
2. First Aid training including stretcher bearing etc.
3. An elementary knowledge of the Bren, Vickers M.G., and Thomson sub-machine gun, to cover casualties among gunners would be advisable.

for the

4. It is considered that ~~in addition~~ A.R.P. work some women may wish to volunteer for duty, and I consider that this would be valuable.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MINUTE PAPER

War Diary

3977, 40

MOST SECRET

Letter No. 26

SUBJECT:

VILA SITUATION REPORT

H.Q. A.I.F. DETACHMENT
VILA

15 Aug 41

H.Q. S.M.D.,
PORT MORESBY

1. **FIGHTING STRENGTH.**- A.I.F. personnel at present in Vila are as follows:-

Officers	2
Serjeants	3
Corporals	2
L/Corporals	2
Privates	20
A.A.M.C. Corporal Attached	1

TOTAL - 29 plus 1 attached.

It was originally intended to pick up Pte F.T.L. Browne at present with No. 3 Section "A" Platoon No. 1 Indep Coy., at Buka but the R.A.A.F. later decided that they were unable to do this and Pte Browne is still at Buka. He speaks French fluently and his presence would have been invaluable.

2. **BILLETING OF TROOPS.**- The quarters (Presidents Court) provided by the British Resident Commissioner are ideal barracks and this detachment is completely billeted. The European personnel being raised here are also billeted in these quarters. There number 14 at present but will shortly be increased to approximately 30.

3. **NATIVE TROOPS.**- This force has not yet been raised as quarters are not yet available being still in the process of erection, and as yet no equipment has arrived from Australia. This equipment should arrive by the next "Morinda".

4. **HOME GUARD.** This is in the process of formation and equipment is coming to hand as above.

5. **CHINESE HOME GUARD.**- The local Chinese have stated their desire to form a defence force of their own and equipment has been requisitioned for. It is considered that such a formation of approximately 50 in number would be a valuable addition to the present force.

6. The total available forces should total approximately 240 excluding R.A.A.F. personnel.

7. **ARMS AND AMMUNITION.**

1. .303	-	38 Serviceable	} Including 24 taken over from the British Police
		12 Unserviceable	
2. Sniping Rifles	-	5	
3. Thomson Sub-Machine gun		1	
4. Pistols .455		14	
5. Bren Guns		2	
6. Vickers Guns		10	

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MINUTE PAPER

M.3977/40

SUBJECT:

MOST SECRET

Letter No. 26

-3-

H.Q. S.M.D. PRTH MORESBY (cont)

(this number of Vickers includes 2 Maxims taken over from the B.R.C. and 3 R.A.A.F. Vickers. All ~~maxims~~ are fitted with improvised A/A mountings.)

7. Hand Grenades 144

8. Cup Dischargers 3

9. AMMUNITION :-	.303 ball	403,461
	.303 tracer	16,200
	.45 ball	9,150
	.455 pistol	282

8. DISPOSITION OF GUNS-

1. A.C.B. 5 Vickers A/A M.Gs are mounted in the air base area and are manned continuously.
2. Vila and Govt. Wireless station. - 5 Vickers M.Gs are mounted at key points.
3. The Brens are used as mobile A/A guns.
4. All guns are so disposed that they can be used at short notice for ground defense.

9. RESERVE FOOD DUMP.

1. A joint R.A.A.F. and A.I.F. food dump has been established in the centre of Vila Island sufficient for thirty (30) days.
2. The civil authorities are erecting shelters and placing reserve food supplies at this point sufficient for 1000 people for one week.

10. SERVICE CO-OPERATION.

Close liaison is being maintained between R.A.N., R.A.A.F. and A.I.F. H.Q.S.

11. FRESH FOOD SUPPLIES.

A plentiful supply of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables are available at this point.

12. POLITICAL SITUATION.

The unique political situation existing in the Vila Condominium acts as a brake on defence activities as approval from both authorities and a joint agreement

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MINUTE PAPER

C.3977, 40

VERY SECRET Letter 26

SUBJECT:

--4--

H.Q. S.M.D., PORT MORESBY (CONT)

21. MAIL.

is

This a difficult problem as at present all mail for this detachment is proceeding to Rabaul addressed to No. 2 Section, "A" Platoon, No. 1 Indep Coy., A.I.F. Abroad to be forwarded by the first available means.

22. TELEGRAMS.

It is not known whether it is permissible for security reasons to forward telegrams etc. to Australia (minus stamp of origin) or not. Could you advise.

24. CANTEN STOCKS.

The Defence forces Canteen Board is being radioed for replenishments of stocks.

25. INTERCOMMUNICATION.

1. Both R.A.A.F. and Government channels are being used.
2. The B.R.C. is establishing telephone communication between watching posts and H.Q.

26. R.A.A.F. BOMB DUMP.

The opinions expressed by Radio regarding this dump are still are still maintained.

27. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Air raid shelters are being constructed throughout Vila.

Al Good
Capt.
 O.C. A.I.F. DETACHMENT VILA

157 DEC 41.

COURSES OPEN

1. TO ENEMY

- 1. Air bombardment and machine gunning.
- 2. Shelling from sea.
- 3. Beach landing in small or large parties.
- 4. Parachute landings.

It is considered that course(1) is the most likely.

2. TO US

- 1. Engage enemy with A/A machine gun and rifle fire.
- 2. Repel sea landings by the enemy by using M.G., rifle and grenade.
- 3. Engage and destroy parachutists.
- 4. If landing successful to withdraw to R.V. and maintain continuous harassing attacks to prevent enemy from becoming established.

PLAN

As it is considered that the most likely form of hostile action at this stage is action from the air, the plan will be based mainly on Anti Aircraft defence.

- 1. A/A posts to be established at the A.O.B. and at points in the town covering military objectives.
- 2. These to be manned ~~continuously~~ continuously during the daylight hours.
- 3. Watching posts to be established at points on the coast to watch for hostile sea craft.
- 4. Weapon pits to be constructed covering vulnerable points.
- 5. An evacuation point to be established and stores dumped there.
- 6. Close liaison to be maintained between ARMY, AIRFORCE, and NAVY.
- 7. As any defence, owing to lack of numbers must be essentially mobile, no definite plan can be laid down for land defence, but the situation must be met as it arises, and personnel must not be sacrificed in first contact but retain their capacity for guerilla fighting.

ADMINISTRATION

- 1. Personnel manning A/A posts at A.O.B. to be quartered in the buildings & located at the different stations.
- 2. Personnel manning A/A posts in VILA to be quartered in Barracks.

C. H. Good
Capt
 O.C. A.I.F. DETACHMENT VILA

21 Dec. 41.

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Port Vila
27/ Dec. 41.

APPRECIATION OF SITUATION

by
CAPT. A. L. GOODE, O.C. AIF DETACHMENT, VILA.

REF. MAP
ILL. VATE
1/25,000

OBJECT

To defend the Advance Operational Base against

1. Enemy action from the air.
2. Sabotage
3. Landings in small craft from enemy raiders.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. RELATIVE STRENGTHS

1. ENEMY

- a. Possibly one or small group of bombing aircraft from raider or aircraft carrier.
- b. Possibly small parties landed from merchant raider.
(this is deemed unlikely at present as enemy lines of communication would be too long to maintain)
- c. Possibly one or small group of merchant raiders shelling from outer limits of Mele Bay but not attempting to land.
- d. Possibly a submarine shelling from outer limits of Mele Bay.
(this is deemed unlikely as the enemy knows that aircraft are based here and submarine are vulnerable to air attack)
- e. Possibly a landing by a small sabotage party.

2. OWN

- a. A.I.F. Personnel 29, plus 1 A.A.M.C. corporal attached.
- b. Local personnel in training 19.
- c. R.A.A.F. personnel who would be available for active defense in the event of attempted landing number approximately 30 all ranks.
- d. Weapons. A.I.F. detachment.
5 Vickers .303 with A/A mountings.
5 Vickers .303 with improvised A/A mountings.
2 Bren .303
1 T.S.M.G. .45
23 ~~23~~ Rifles
144 Grenades
400,000 rounds .303 ammunition.
Garrison force trainees.
19 Rifles with ammunition.

R.A.A.F. 30 rifles

60,000 rounds .303 ammunition

Note - All Vickers and Bren can be used for ground defence.

e. TOTAL PERSONNEL ALL FORCES -- Approx. 80

2. TOPOGRAPHY

1. VILA ISLAND is approximately 20 miles by 30 miles.
2. It is heavily timbered ~~rough~~ right up to the shore except in Male Bay which has been cleared in the immediate vicinity of the township.
3. A ridge approx. 100 feet high runs along behind the township a quarter of a mile from and parallel to the shore.
4. Behind the ridge is ERAKOR LAGOON.
5. A number of plantations are located to the NORTH and NORTH WEST of Male Bay.
6. There are approximately 80 miles of roads in the area radiating from VILA to PANGO POINT, DEVIL'S POINT, BOUFFA RUIN, TRACOMA RIVER, and in addition a number of off-shoots from these to various plantations.

3. THE HARBOUR

1. Is capable of anchoring vessels up to 20,000 tons.
2. It contains a great number of reef formations.
3. All vessels must navigate by leading posts and lights by night.

4. TIME AND SPACE

1. VILA ISLAND is isolated from immediate support.
2. As a result of this a considerable time lag would occur before assistance, if required, could come.

5. INTERCOMMUNICATION.

1. A.O.B. Transmitter and Receiver, and D.F. plant.
2. Govt. Wireless station Transmitter and Receiver.
3. Telephonic communication within town area extending to PANGO POINT and MONMARTE MISSION.

6. SHIPPING.

1. Irregular - "Morinda" only consistent caller.
2. number of small craft.

7. AIRCRAFT

1. Always at least one seaplane stationed at A.O.B.

8. FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Adequate reserve supplies are carried within the town. This reserve is being increased.

1470 B

1st Coy

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit A.I.F. DETACHMENT, VILA
NEW HEBRIDES

Date and Time.—From 0900hrs 3 Jan 42 to 1700hrs 31 Jan 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
VILA	3 Jan	0900	Issue of clothing and equipment to N.H.D.F. Personnel	
"	4 Jan	1500	Further draft of one personnel taken on strength N.H.D.F.	
			Personnel now undergoing instruction in 1st Cadre Course totals 21.	
	5 Jan	2000	Issue clothing and equipment to personnel of V.D.C.	
	7 Jan	0600	Arrival "Morinda"	
	7 Jan	2000	Issue respirators to members V.D.C.	
	10 Jan	0900	Placing 7 extra personnel at A.O.B. (i/c Cpl. Stewart)	
	10 Jan	1400	Firing range practice by British Members of V.D.C.	
	11 Jan	0900	Firing range practice by French Members of V.D.C.	
	11 Jan	1500	Arrival of Free French Sloop	
	12 Jan	0500	Departure of Free French Sloop	
	15 Jan	0700	Arrival Free French Sloop	
	16 Jan	0500	Departure Free French Sloop	
	17 Jan	1200	Departure "Morinda" carrying special V.O. Guard	
	17 Jan	2000	Swearing in members of V.D.C.	
	22 Jan	0300	Departure Capt. Goode on schooner "Resolution" on recce to Undine Bay and Port Havahah.	
	22 Jan	1200	Arrival French Sloop	
	22 Jan	2100	Departure French Sloop	
	23 Jan	1200	Departure N.H.D.F. to Havanah Harbour. Officer in charge Lieut. Watson	
	23 Jan	1400	Return of Capt. Goode from Havanah Harbour and Undine Bay recce.	
	24 Jan	1015	Stand to alarm sounded. Aeroplane heard but not sighted. Visibility very poor and ceiling low. All clear sounded 1045.	
	25 Jan	0900)	Establishing emergency dumps ammunition in concealed positions	
		1700)		
	29 Jan	0200	Receipt roles to be adopted from Pt. Moresby	
	29 Jan	0900/1700	Firing range practice by A.I.F. personnel	
	30 Jan	0900/1700	Firing range practice by A.I.F. personnel	

NSH.

M. Goode Capt.

1470 B

1st Coy

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit A.I.F. Detachment, Vila. Date and Time.—From 0900 hrs 1 Feb 42 To NEW HEBRIDES

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
VILA	1 Feb	0900/1500	Firing range practice A.I.F. personnel	
	2 Feb	0900/1500	Inspection by A.I.F. personnel of concealed reserve ammunition dumps.	
	3 Feb	0900/1500	Inspection by A.I.F. personnel of concealed reserve ammunition dumps	
	4 Feb	0900/1500	Firing range practice A.I.F. Personnel	
	5 Feb	0900/1500	Firing range practice A.I.F. Personnel	
	5 Feb	1700	Taking over from French Constabulary :-- 34 Lebel rifles 24 bayonets 1500 rounds ball ammunition	
	7 Feb	1500	Firing range practice by V.D.C. personnel	
	8 Feb	0900/1500	Firing range practice by V.D.C. personnel	
	9 Feb	0700	Departure N.H.D.F. on recce to Teoma. I/C Pte. Reid Lieut. Watson and Pte Young accompanied recce party.	
	10 Feb	1600	Return Recce. party from Teoma.	
	11 Feb	0900/1500	Firing Range practice by A.I.F. personnel	
	13 Feb	0900/1500	Firing range practice by N.H.D.F. personnel	
	13 Feb	1530	Stand to sounded, 2 unidentified aircraft sighted over VILA All clear sounded 1715 hrs.	
	14 Feb	1400/1600	Range practice. Competition shoot between selected teams from A.I.F., N.H.D.F., and V.D.C.	
	16 Feb	1130	Arrival At A.O.B. of two EA Catalina Flying Boats (U.S. Army)	
	16/2/42	0900/1700	Loading stores for No. 1 Dump at Undine Bay	
	16/2/42	2359	Departure Lieut. Watson and Cpl. Veale to supervise establishment to No. 1 Store at Undine Bay.	
	21/2/42	1800	Return from Undine Bay of Lieut. Watson. Cpl. Veale left in charge Dump	
	26/2/42	1200	Arrival from TULAGI of Schooner "RUANA" carrying civilian EVAC evacuees.	
	27/2/42	1600	Finalising arrangements for taking over schooner "RUANA" for purpose of sending stores etc. to BUKA GARRISON.	
	28/2/42	0900/1600	Loading stores for BUKA GARRISON ON "RUANA"	

A. H. Goodie Capt.