

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

Item number: 8/3/35

2/43 Infantry Battalion

May 1941

2/43rd BATTALION, A.I.F.

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.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Unit *2/43 Bn*Commanding Officer *Lt. Col. W.W. Mellis*

Month and Year.....

(Erase heading not required).

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
TOBRUK	1 May	0805 0850	Approx 20 enemy moved about 1000 yds fwd of 42274240, crawled & moved in short bounds. Number increased to about 40 moving forward about 4 at a time, finally going to ground approx 800 yds out & opening fire with automatic weapons. Engaged by fire from no. 1 Pl of ASC.	
		1027.	Three prisoners captured near Z101. out of a patrol of 20; later proved to be from 2nd Coy 7 Bersagliere Regt.	
		1320	Post 289 reports silencing of two enemy MG posts by arty fire which was extremely accurate.	
		1500	Post 297 under light MG fire - replying vigorously	
		1735	Opposite Z80 4 or 5 men moved fwd carrying pole & white object. When fired on pole was either thrown or knocked down & men went to ground. Later inquiries revealed that cloth may have been red cross & men stretcher-bearers	
		1859	7-8 enemy establishing post 1100 yds out on bearing of 78° from Z80	
		2025	Enemy MG fired on Rd block & along BARDIA RA MORALE of troops very high after this engagement, no casualties on	

W.W. Mellis

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TOBRUK	1 May		our side, they are certain that casualties occurred in the ranks of enemy. Several bearings on gun flashes were taken	
	2 May	0620	Best 280 fire on by MG from about 1000 yds out.	
		0645	Enemy MG firing long bursts which are falling on 281 + Rd block coming from North of + close to Bardia Rd	
		0800	About 20 enemy moving around mound in area 4243+244	
		0915	5 lorry loads of inf seen debussing square 427420. 427421 slight movement 422418	
		2030	Several bursts MG + LMG from position North of BARDIA Rd 3000 yds out. During night movement of MT. reported but not heavy, cutting out altogether at 2035. MC also heard.	
		x	Work is proceeding rapidly in the erection of dummy positions.	
	3 May		Enemy still concentrating on blockhouse with shell fire approx 70 shells in that area today - we enjoy watching him fire at nothing & constantly keep up the pretence that it	

J. Wilson Lieut
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Commanding Officer _____

Month and Year May 4

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
TERRUK	3 May		<p>is occupied. Lots of MG fire during day on Z 80 & 281. At 1100 enemy 3" mortar fired 2 rounds Z 80, 3 rounds Z 89. C & D boys tonight changed positions, C boy taking over right forward sector & D boy coming back into reserve. Both boys are satisfied as they are both of the opinion that they will now have a rest. Our "BUSH" arty has a baby in the form of a 5.9 brought forward to help annoy the enemy. Cbr Stewart, sigs officer, has promised 4 more so we are looking forward to some fun.</p>	
	4 May		<p>Fire from mortars, arty, & MGs were directed at Z 80 today in small doses. Enemy seem to be concentrating on this post more than any other but so far no damage has been done. A very quiet day, 13 rounds of arty only 1000 yds in rear of blockhouse.</p> <p>1530 Approx 2 miles due NORTH of Wadi ZEITUN an enemy plane</p>	

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TOBRUK	4 May	0400	dropped what appeared to be a mine on a parachute 8 rockets seen fired in direction of sea. Daylight patrols reported wadis ZEITUN & WEDDAN clear	
		1900.	80 shells fired by our arty into wadi BELGASSEM. List of German forces estimated at present in TOBRUK area after reduction of casualties at 26 Apr 41.	App 1
	5 May	0600	Increased enemy artillery activity throughout day & night Approx 50 shells in areas blackhouse, Bn HQ, & rear of P.S.C bay. 10 men seen 1000 yds out near BARDIA Rd - fired on	
		0610	280 fired on by MG. Two short bursts	
		0700	10 men near & WEST of Wadi WEDDAN. This movement has been noticed before twice, in same area.	
		1845	Thought to be periscope seen bearing 85° from Z 80.	
		1900	Our BUSH arty now consisting of 9 guns (75, 100, 149mm) fired 80 rounds into wadi BELGASSEM & head of wadi BERIVLA.	

J. Wilson Lieut
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TEBRUK	6 May	0500	A change of time - 70 rounds fired by BUSH Arty into wadi BELGASSEM or thereabouts.	
		0710	About 10 men moving NORTH to SOUTH immediately this side of wadi WEDDAN. They disappeared in approx 7 mins.	
			A severe sand storm which lasted the greater part of the day reduced visibility to less than 200 yds at times.	
		2045	Our supporting Arty shelled area 426423, on information received ^{from} by this unit, & at 2135 a large fire, sounds of explosions & shouting was heard.	
			Messages were received from Prime Minister of Australia & Lieut. Gen Sir Thomas Blamey G.O.C. A.I.F. M.F. & promulgated to the troops	App 2.
	7 May	1050	Two ships were shelled by a gun estimated to be in wadi WEDDAN.	
		1005	Enemy have brought Mortar fire to bear in Wadi ZEITUN, the nature of fire suggesting a defensive fire cast.	

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TOBRUK	May 7		<p>During the day slight movement was seen of single men & MT at odd intervals around area of Wadis & along BARDIA Rd. Our 'Bush' Artillery at 1900 fired 60 shells into wadi GERIULA.</p> <p>Operation Order No 3 is issued dealing with the strengthening of existing positions.</p> <p>Troops morale was raised to an even higher plane by messages received from the Commander in Chief & the Corps Commander respectively. Although concise they were well to the point. The messages were</p> <p>C in C - "Good work - Keep going."</p> <p>Corps Comd - "Garrison will be relieved as soon as possible"</p>	<p>App No 3</p>
	May 8	<p>0230 0500 0710</p>	<p>Sounds of MC & MT between BARDIA Rd & wadi area</p> <p>Post R75 reports heavy blasting about 500 yds immediate front & more to right</p> <p>Shelling today was negligible only 14 rounds being fired</p>	

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TERRUK	May 8	1400 1410	<p>by the enemy.</p> <p>Noise heard of someone rolling around barrels, or of empty barrels being moved in truck.</p> <p>A Sack revealed today two concentrations of MT in the BU AMUD area consisting of 30 medium tanks & 100 MT. This is approx 7 miles EAST along the BARDIA Rd.</p> <p>Messages are coming thick, fast praising defence of TERRUK two more being received today, one from Prime Minister of England & the other from Sir Archibald Wavell GCB, CMG, MC. They are respectively</p> <p>"The whole empire is watching your steadfast & spirited defence of this important outpost of EGYPT with gratitude & admiration."</p> <p>"Your magnificent defence is upsetting the enemy's plans for attack on Egypt & giving us time to build up force for a counter offensive. You could not be doing better service. Well done."</p>	

W. H. Wilson, Lieut

2/43rd BATTALION, A.I.F.

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TERRUK	May 8		We realise that these messages apply more to the troops in the Western perimeter who have been doing a great job & are doing the most of the fighting.	
			Special instructions re censorship issued to troops Wadi GERIVLA received a special message from our "Bush" Army at 1900 in the form of 150 shells	App. No 4
	May 9		1 officer + 29 ORs endeavoured to locate enemy sources of water supply & destroy but failed to find the cisterns. During the morning enemy movement again noticed in area of twin columns.	
		0250	Large Abstron dog seen in B.H.Q. area. These have previously been reported being seen by forward posts & have been heard barking in wadi area. Our carriers had their first jaunt today under Lieut L. J. Pratt & were highly successful. Three carriers moved out from road block on bearing of 135° towards	

Wt. 13161/317 200/0.0 5/39 H.E.J.Ltd. 51-3911 Forms C2118/21

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TODRUK	May 9		<p>Trig 146. One carrier searched area of Trig whilst another moved SW & surprised enemy in process of digging, fired on them from a distance of 600 yds with Vickers & returned to link forces with other two. Patrol then moved EAST to known MG position crossing track at 42.55 42.15 where they were fired on with small arms & AT Rifle. They moved forward circling around the weapon pits engaging the enemy with MG fire & grenades. Two prisoners were taken during the melee & much damage caused. Patrol returned through road back at 1620. Valuable information was obtained by the patrol & later by the questioning of the prisoners. They proved to be from 8 Bn of 7 Bersaglieri Regt.</p>	
	May 10		<p>A fighting patrol moved out at 0300 in an attempt to ambush enemy near twin columns. They stayed in position until 0710 but enemy did not appear.</p>	

J. Wilton Lieut
I.C.

2/43rd BATTALION, A.I.F.

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TERRUK	May 9		Dr Works Officer lays down priority for field works programme to all boys	App No 5.
	May 10	0600 0700	Movement around sangars immediately EAST of head of wadi WEDDAN	
		0745	4 enemy tanks move along perimeter near R64. Engaged by R64 when 2000 yds out & they moved to SOUTH.	
		1500	Three carriers under Lieut R F Ludholz, ex carrier officer, now 2.I.C. D Coy, moved out to determine enemy strength in area 42324182 where working party was seen yesterday. Encountered enemy working party in this area of strength approx 200. They were unarmed but protected by 5 medium tanks & 3 AT guns 1500 yds to SE. The carriers drove right into the working party opening fire with MGs & grenades. Many casualties were caused without loss to ourselves. Valuable information was brought back by the patrol.	

J. Miller Lieut
I.O.

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TOBRUK	10 May	0910	A large white dog shot when crossing wadi ZEITUN near post 287. Was inspected but carrying nothing	
		0925	9 men now about in area east of head of wadi WEDDIAN Instructions is issued dealing with Unexploded Bombs & Thermos Bombs	App no 7 b
			We were honoured today by a visit to our Bn area by Major-General L. G. Chorshead, CMG, OBE, DSO, ED.	
			A report received being a result of examination of POW captured by our barriers yesterday.	App no 7.
	11 May	0300	A fighting patrol moved out from Post road block & took up a position in the area of twin columns in an endeavour to ambush the enemy who lately had been seen in small parties moving in that area around dawn. Unfortunately he failed to appear but the patrol succeeded in pinpointing ^{the} his position of the line of sangars on the Western edge of the wadi BELGASSEM.	

J. Wilson Lieut
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TOBRUK	11 May		Single aircraft have been observed between 0400 & 0425 flying over our area.	
		0400	Shelling of Post Z 90 4 rounds.	
			Between 0420 & 0430 MT & MC activity (slight) has been heard in the wadi area.	
		1914	Secco plane flying low over BHA area - engaged by sn fire.	
		2000	2/22 Sn reports 6 men & 1 vehicle approx 3 miles out bearing of 120° from Post R 69.	
			Sde then Division approves Col. Mellin's plan for an attack on enemy positions situated astride BARDIA Rd & along Western edge of wadi BELGASSEM. The 2/43 Bn Operation Order No 2 is issued. The attack is to be carried out by D Coy Comd. Capt James supported by other arms. It could not be better timed as the morale of the troops is at its highest.	App No. 8
	12 May	1030	A co-ordinating conference is held & modifications of the	

J. M. Wilson
Lieut
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TERRUK	12 May		Operation Order & administrative instructions to are issued	App No 8.
			D Coy issues its operation order no 2.	App no 9.
		0910	3 shells fell to WEST of blackhouse	
		2005	Movement of 1 or 2 min 4000 yds out on bearing of 149° from R75	
		2120	Sounds of MT approx same area, apparently moving SOUTH.	
		2140	Movement of MT heard 4000-5000 yds EAST of Z 97 near coast.	
	13 May	0500	Enemy very restless, intermittent MG & rifle fire searching ground.	
		0550	they must be hearing the tanks moving out.	
			Our attack proved unsuccessful owing to a series of unfortunate incidents. Redeeming features were the reliability of the Bren guns which did not get one stoppage during the course of the action & the sterling work done by the Carriers in rescuing the crews of 3 of their number under very heavy A.T. & MG fire. Taking into consideration the	See App No. 10.

J. M. Wilton, Lieut.
i.o.

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TOBRUCH	12 May		density of enemy fire, our casualties were light namely killed - Lieut L J Pratt (carrier Pl. band) & Pte L E Brown (stretchers bearer) Wounded - Lieut J W N MINOCKS, Sgt T C BURGAN, Ptes A G GREEN, P CLARKE, E R BROWN, P C ROBERTS, Lpl L H ROSE. Two "9" tanks & three carriers were lost during the operation. The morale of the troops did not suffer, & they consider they could have won the day had everything gone according to plan.	
		0857	Three planes circled over the area.	
			During the day small parties of enemy were seen in the vicinity of the abandoned tanks & carriers, and were engaged by our Artillery.	
		1930 2115	Squad of 1 NCO & 5 ORs moved out to the abandoned carrier near the perimeter & recovered the body of Lieut L J PRATT.	
	14 May		Three planes over this area at 0020, 0716, & 0245.	
		1515	About 25 planes passed over & SOUTH of this area after bombing TOBRUCH. It is noticed that this seems to be the	

J. M. Wilson
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TOBRUK	May 14		route of all planes after bombing.	
			One of the abandoned "I" tanks were removed during night by the enemy.	
		0030	Navy shelled wadi BELGASSEM - shelling reported as falling in correct area by A.S.C. Coy.	
		0655	During the day 6 shells fell in vicinity of blockhouse. Two men moving approx 42424244	
		1320	Some movement near northerly abandoned tank, possibly some digging as earth was observed being thrown into the air.	
		1440	Same movement observed - "SUSH" vby goes into action, 35 rounds. RHA Foo reports shooting as accurate.	
			A warning order is issued to boys in relation to our proposed move to AIRETE sector for a 2 day rest.	
	May 15	0520	One unidentified plane passed over	
		0640	What appears to be a small tank moving into wadi BELGASSEM	
		0725	Enemy vehicle moving NORTH towards BARDIA Rd. approx 2000 yds out.	

(3062) Wt 36171/1838 500m 11/39 BPL 51/5436 Forms C2118/22

J. Wilton Lieut
I. D.

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TOBRUK	May 15		During last night patrol moved out to abandoned carrier nearest perimeter & brought back all articles of value. Vickers gun & Boys rifle already taken by enemy.	
		1130 1315	Extensive shelling carried out on known enemy positions by our Bush Katy as part of a deceptive programme to attract enemy attention to this flank.	
			Carrier & fighting patrols were maintained throughout the day but did not gain contact.	
			From 2000 hrs onwards much movement of heavy aircraft flying in an Easterly direction.	
			Movement Order is issued to boys	Appen. no 11
	May 16	1120 1905 1430	Two planes over this area for several minutes	
			+ E12 circled over BNA area & south. Engaged by SA fire	
		1950	2 more on mound 42484247 for a few minutes only	
			Preparations continued during the day for our move to BIRENTE but move postponed indefinitely at 1400 hrs.	

Wilton Hunt
I.O.

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TERRUK	May 16	2130	A patrol moved out to determine if enemy still holding the position across BARDIA Rd. could not draw any fire but established their presence by hearing voices.	
	May 17	0820	Unidentified plane flew WEST to eastern perimeter then SOUTH along it	
		1030 1057	Five shells 200-300 yds WEST of blackhouse from a gun SOUTH of BARDIA Rd. Shells sounded to be of a heavier calibre than usual	
		0635	6 men moving area 42494244	
		1605	About 30 planes flew over after having bombed TERRUK	
		1930 2020	Three men on mound at approx 42484247. Men were still there when light failed.	
		2200	Lights seen south of BARDIA Rd. & WEST of blackhouse. Investigated & Lt Bend in charge of party formed definite opinion that all lights seen were on Western perimeter. During night 2/48 moved in on our right replacing	

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TEBRUK	May 17		2/20 Bn pleased to see another bunch of our battalion there who have already distinguished themselves. No word yet of our proposed move.	
	May 18		Extracts from German officer's diary issued to troops, they now appreciate hardships of the enemy outside the perimeter.	
		0610 0800	3 to 4 men on mound (ruin) 4248+247. Bad visibility prevented further observation.	
		1900 2030	3 to 4 men on same mound - there until light failed.	
		2010	About 2 miles out veh. after depositing approx 20 men at BAROIN Rd., moved NORTH into dead ground.	
		2017	Another vehicle moved along same track.	
			Lights thought to be signal flashes were seen tonight again & a patrol of 1 officer & 4 ORs went out to investigate. A bearing was obtained & patrol moved towards the light for 1000 yds. Owing to minefield it was unsafe to proceed.	

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TERRUK	May 18		further. Being no further light after waiting for an hour, patrol returned.	
			Two barrier patrols containing members of "I" section went out to Trig 146 & obtained valuable bearings pinpointing enemy positions	
	May 19	0600	Three men left at mound 4248+247	
		0755	Enemy recon plane flew WEST to perimeter, NORTH to coast, turned and flew SOUTH & WEST around perimeter.	
		1115	Sounds of bombs or shelling from along the BARDIA Rd. Unable to locate source. Several bursts of MG fire. No reports of the fire being directed at any of our posts. Sound of an aeroplane heard at this time.	
		1125	4 shells fall WEST of BLOCKHOUSE 41000 yds SOUTH of BARDIA Rd.	
		1510.	6 shells fall in vicinity of Z.P.	
		1930.	"Bush" Coy heavily shelled known enemy positions in wadis area. Abandoned carrier burning fiercely 1945-2000.	

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TERRUCH	May 19	1450 1610.	Two barrier patrols under command Sgt. Lodge contacted & drew fire from enemy in wadi BELGROSEM & astride BARDIA Rd. Minefield located SOUTH of BARDIA Rd.	
		2100	Patrol (Crece) confirms mine field 2900 yds along BARDIA Rd from road block Lidd found to be under construction & being extended.	
			During the day we are notified that we are to move tomorrow night into Oriente rest area for a three-day rest. The move is appreciated as a rest from continual night patrolling is badly needed.	
	May 20	0140.	Throughout last night the RHA fired 120 shells at intervals on enemy position 42704210. Explosion heard near BARDIA Rd. Two bursts of MG fire followed. MT was heard to approach vicinity of explosion, halt for 2 or 3 mins then depart.	See App. No. 12
			Throughout the night MT, or MC, voices & digging were heard.	

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Month and Year May 51

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
TERRUK	May 20		<p>on the Bn front but these may have been a considerable distance out owing to the extreme stillness of the night.</p> <p>Today was very quiet on the front & this allowed preparations for the movement out to be made without interruption.</p> <p>The 2/23 Bn commenced moving in at 2115. The CONROY force moved during the afternoon. At 0115 all boys reported settled in their new position. General satisfaction was felt by all ranks at having A & B boys with us once more.</p> <p>Notification today was received that Major Lowroy, our 2 i/c & Comd. of Lowroy force has been appointed Administrative Comd. of the 2/15 Bn. Our loss is their gain & we all congratulate this very able officer on his appointment. Major Truch takes over acting 2 i/c Bn & Capt. Williamson A boy.</p>	

2/43rd BATTALION, A.I.F.

Army Form C. 2113.

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/43 Bn

Commanding Officer _____

Month and Year May 41

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
TOBRUK	May 21 23		The order of the day is swimming & rescuing. Parties are arranged for swims & the troops take full advantage of opportunities afforded. This AIRENTE area is dusty in the extreme so apart from eating & swimming there is little movement above ground. The nearby presence of an AA battery gives ample warning of air-raids, there being experienced on the 21st. On May 22 opportunity was taken by the officers to view a mud model of the salient at Divisional H.Q.	
	May 22		An Operation Order No. 5 is issued re taking over position of 2/1 Bn on the blue line.	App. no 13
	May 23		Boys are warned of mines in new area. Preparations made & Bn commences to move at 1400 hrs.	
	x	1800	All boys have reported as being in position & stores taken over. Heavy dust-storm precludes any thought of improving defences.	Garrison, Lt Col I.O.

2/43rd BATTALION, A.I.F.

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

WAR DIARY

-or-

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 21'8.

Unit 2/43rd Bn

Commanding Officer _____

Month and Year May 24

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
TOBRUK	May 24	0715 0745	12 shells fall close to road junction 40674267	
		1335	Truck blown up by mine forward of Post 9. 2 ORs injured Sgt B. Larkin & Pte J.P. Reid	
			Duststorm still at its height & reconnaissance of areas greatly restricted.	
	May 25		Defence system of the area is not to our satisfaction & new positions have to be dug & new areas allotted.	App no 14
	May 26		Work proceeds & new bay fire plans completed. The Bn is issued with 24 new Thomson ^{sub.} Machine Guns.	
	May 27		The Bn is visited by 4 Tanks. One "I" (A13) & three Cruisers (A9, A10, & A13) demonstrate & explain to personnel explain their function & limitations. Advantage is taken to issue an instruction on co-operation between infantry & Tanks.	
			Indain Indian labour is employed to help with the digging of the new positions.	

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and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

-or-

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/43rd Bn

Commanding Officer _____

Month and Year May 41

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
TOBRUK	May 28	2045	"D" boy truck struck a mine in a minefield (radial) forward of 18 Pl. strongpost. L/Cpl Haggerty injured. A test is carried out by tank hunting platoon of HQ boy results with S.T. grenades results not satisfactory.	
	May 29	2200	"B" boy practice embussing for their counter attacking role. Owing to petrol restrictions swimming parties are now forbidden.	
		1715	During air raid over TOBRUK one of our own A.A. shells fell & exploded 100 yds NORTH of B.H.Q. - no damage. Rum issued to troops, no one backward in coming forward carriers commenced digging in forming their part of defensive plan - hull down. At 2100 they practiced their role in co-operation with "B" boy, reporting from positions to "B" boy HQ in 8 minutes. Highly satisfactory results obtained today in a further test carried out by S.T. grenades.	

J. Wilson Lieut
I.O.

WAR DIARY

-or-

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

May 41

2/43 Bn.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK	May 30		<p>Lieut D J Hemmings & 23 ORs rejoined the unit after having been in Egypt & Palestine through sickness & schools.</p> <p>An extra 500 gallons of water ^{per day} has been allotted to the unit as a result of a new source of supply being discovered.</p>	
	May 31		<p>Digging has been commenced by the RHA on two positions for the purpose of siting two Italian M11 tanks for anti-tank protection.</p> <p>Lately the position has been very quiet, & the battalion has been enjoying a rest apart from digging. Owing to the heat most of this is done in the mornings & evenings.</p>	

received in file
Comd 2/43 Bn

J. H. Wilton
Lieut
I.O.

WAR DIARY

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.)

2/43 Bn

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK			List of Documents attached as appendices and not mentioned in the text.	
			Enemy posts & features in enemy territory (SIDI DAUD sector).	App No 14.
			Receipts for P.O.W. Carlo Magni & Giovanni Cholinari.	" " 15
			Situation Reports 27 March - 31 March 41	" " 16
			Admin Instruction - 2/43 Bn and Conway Force	" " 17
			Tracing map of CONROY FORCE dispositions in SIDI DAUD sector	" " 18
			* Tracing map of 2/43 Bn & enemy dispositions in SIDI DAUD sector	" " 19
			Daily Works Report for 10 th May 41	" " 20
			2/43 Bn Situation Reports May 2, May 3, May 4, May 5, May 6, May 7, May 8, May 9, May 10, May 11, May 12, May 13, May 14, May 15, May 16, May 17, May 18, May 19, May 20. (19 Documents)	" " 21
			2/43 Bn Patrol reports May 2, May 3, May 5, May 6, May 7, May 8, May 9, May 9, May 10, May 10, May 11, May 12, May 14, May 15, May 15, May 17, May 18, May 18, May 19, May 19, May 19, May 19, May 20, May 20 (24 documents)	" " 22
			2/43 Bn Intelligence Summary no 11 May 2	" " 23

J. Wilson Lieut
1.0.

WAR DIARY

-or-

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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2/43rd Bn.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK			2/43 rd Bn Intelligence Summary no. 12 May 5	App No 24
			no 13 May 6	25
			no 14 May 7	26
			no 15 May 8	27
			no 16 May 9	28
			no 17 May 10	29
			no 18 May 11	30
			no 19 May 13	31
			no 20 May 14	32
			no 21 May 16	33
			no 22 May 17	34
			no 23 May 19	35
			no 24 May 27	36
			no 25 May 29	37
			no 26 May 31	38
			Field Returns - Officers 3 May 4	39

J. Wilson Lieut
I.O.

WAR DIARY

-or-

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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2/43rd Bn.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUK			Field Return - Other Ranks 3 May 41	App No. 40
			- Officers 10 May 41	" " 41
			- Other Ranks 10 May 41	" " 42
			- Officers 17 May 41	" " 43
			- Other Ranks 17 May 41	" " 44
			- Officers 24 May 41	" " 45
			- Other Ranks 24 May 41	" " 46
			- Officers 31 May 41	" " 47

J. Wilson Lieut.
10.

2/43 Bn War Diary
Appendix no. 1.

	Men.	Tks lt.	Tks Med.	A.Cs.	LMG.	HMG.	Sup HMG.	A/t Rifle.	Lt mortars. 8 cm.	Hy Mortars. 8 cm.	3.7 cm. A/tk.	3.7 cm. AA.	5 cm. A/tk.	5 cm guns. Tk.	7.5 cm guns.	7.5 cm guns tks.	8.8 cm guns AA.	MT	M/C.
<u>5 Light DIV.</u>																			
5 Tank Regt 1 Bn. 800		20	24		94		12							19.		5		275	82.
2 MG BN.	990				6	42		9	9	6								150	30.
8 MG BN (2/3 COYS ONLY SURVIVING) 605 a/TKBN.	424				3	22		4	4	3								64	13.
39 A/TK BN.	600				18						24		9					130	30.
606 AA BN.	650				12							36						133	30.
1 Bn 33 FLAK Regt	1183				12		24									12		246	93
<u>15 Armd DIV.</u>																			
115 Lorrled Inf Regt.	1605			6	68	32	2	18	18	12.	6				8			290	162.
	6852.	20	24	6	213	96	38	31	31	21	30	36	36	19	8	5	12.	1418	470.

GERMAN forces estimated at present in TOBRUCH area after deduction of casualties at 26 Apr 41.

6 May

Messages to be promulgated to all ranks.

- (1) From the Prime Minister of Australia.

" I have been watching with pride the magnificent performance of you all at TOBRUK. Against odds you are, I believe, putting up a fight which will live in our history and I am confident that you will win. I feel it a great honour to be not only your Prime Minister but your friend. Please convey to all ranks the greetings and the thanks of Australia -
Menzies.

- (2) From Lieut Gen Sir Thomas Blamey G.O.C. A.I.F. M.E.

"Prime Minister sends message to convey intense admiration for heroic efforts which will be immortal in history of our people. Personally believe your great showing will have decisive value. Stick to it.

Blamey

BASH OPERATION INSTN No 3

1. H.Q. 9 DIV has issued the following instn.
Strengthening existing posns-
- (a) Personnel in the posts to occupy the circular anti-tank ditch, which surrounds the posts when standing-to, and when in action. Fire step to be built in all such tank ditches immediately to enable this to be done.
 - (b) Construct alternative posts for every section and for all H.Q.
 - (c) Demolition-charges to be available in all posts for use of patrols to enable them to destroy enemy guns etc.
 - (d) Camouflage equipment available to camouflage all posns. Timber to be replaced over the anti-tank ditches surrounding posts in order to camouflage it. Buttresses of sandbags to be built across the ditch to neutralise effect of enemy fire therein.
 - (e) Verey pistols to be obtained and issued on the basis of one to each post.
 - (f) Sandbags are available for fwd posts.
 - (g) Smoke generators are available for issue and should be allotted to each post.
 - (h) Anti personnel mines are available.
 - (j) Anti tank mines to be laid radially from each post. Tanks have been known to run around the periphery of the post and mines so placed should collect them.
 - (k) If posts are captured by the enemy, counter attacks will be necessary in order to recapture them. This operation must be practised, not only by the reserve units but by all personnel.
 - (l) The Pioneer offr of each Bn will be regarded as Bn Works offr
 - (m) Three days rations and water to be held in each post.
 - (o) Units should go on digging, wiring and continually strengthening their positions. Engineer assistance is not plentiful, but will be supplied whenever possible.
- 2.
- (a) Much of this work is already being done in this sector. It will be continued with all energy, particularly the construction of dummy posns, which is already deceiving the enemy.
 - (b) As to (e) Verey pistols are being obtained gradually and will be issued as available.
As to (f) Q.M. will requisition for sandbags immediately.
As to (g) Some smoke generators will be available tomorrow.
As to (h) Requisition for anti-personnel mines will be made by Q.M.
As to (j) No A/Tk mines are available at present.
As to (k) Pioneer Pl will construct a dummy post in rear area and pls will be practised in attacking and capturing it with mortar, S.A. fire and grenades etc.
Reserve Coy will also be practised in delivering counter-attacks at various points on Bn front, in co-operation with Carrier Pl.

DISTRIBUTION

SUVA
NERO
UKAS
ASCO
TUTO
TIDE (for information)
File
War Diary (2) ✓

Lea Stewart
for Adjutant
Lient.,
Adjutant BASH.

War Diary
Appendix No. 4.

War Diary

INSTRUCTIONS re CENSORSHIP.

1. Troops in their letters must NOT now disclose the fact that they are in LIBYA.

2. It is permitted to say that they have been in the front line, but no details or incidents of our own or enemy activity must be mentioned.

3. General aircraft activity may be mentioned but particulars of same must NOT be disclosed, e.g.

It is NOT permitted to say "30 enemy bombers, escorted by fighters, attacked our positions to-day."

Troops may mention that the enemy shows no hesitation in attacking our hospital ships although clearly marked.

J. H. WILTON, Lieut.

IO. BASH.

BASH,
9 May 41.

2/43Bn War Diary
Appendix No: 5

BASH FIELDWORKS

I PRIORITY:

The Bn Works Officer has laid down the following priority for fd works to be observed in all Coy work programmes:

1. Improvements to tank ditches round posts.
 - (i) Replace boards for camouflage.
 - (ii) Establish weapon posts, in the tank ditch, each with a fire-step.
 - (iii) Construct traversed crawl trenches between the section post and weapon posts.
2. Dig alternative positions.
3. Improvements to wire round section posts.
4. Camouflage battle positions.
5. Camouflage alternative positions.
6. Wire alternative positions.
7. Build dummy positions.

II DAILY WORKS REPORT

Sub-units will tender a report covering the previous 24 hrs work to BASH HQ at 1800 hrs each day.

The report will state the work done at each post.

III TECHNICAL ADVICE

Bn Pioneer Officer is Works Officer, and sub units may invoke advice and assistance in fieldworks from this source.

R. Hamer. Lieut.,
Adj't BASH.

War Diary War Diary
Appendix No 6.
File

BASH
10 May, 41.

UNEXPLODED BOMBS AND THERMOS BOMBS

New instns have been issued and the follg particulars are required and should be telephoned through to BASH HQ:-

- (a) UXB's or THERMOS Bombs.
- (b) If UXB, whether visible above ground or buried.
- (c) If visible above ground the approx size- either estimate of weight or dimensions.
- (d) If buried, diameter of bomb "chimney"
- (e) When dropped (if known)
- (f) When presence first reported (if time of dropping NOT known)
- (g) Location by map ref of nearby land marks with bearing and distance from same.

R. H. H. H. Lieut.
Adj. BASH

File

REPORT on PsOW examined by LIEUT.L.K.SHAVE 9 May 41.

10 May 41

NAMES CARLOS MAGNI
GIOVANNI MOLINARI

UNIT 8 Bn 7 BERSAGLIERIE Regt. TRENTO DIV
(Located astride BARDIA Rd approx 425422)

FLANKING UNIT They think the 10 or 11 Bn is on their right, but do not know where the other one is.
Part of 46 arty Regt is astride the BARDIA Rd further back (about 10 kilos from TOBRUCK perimeter).
There is a group of anti tank guns in their area, but they do not know its number.
They saw a few German light tanks and Italian CV33s on ACROMA on 27 Apr 41.

LOCAL INTENTION. The 7 Regt is acting as a holding force, and is "purely on the defence". There has been no talk of their taking part in any attack.

CASUALTIES IN RECENT FIGHTING. Their Coy has had no casualties but the Bn has had a few captured and wounded and one Officer killed.

FOOD AND WATER SITUATION. They have plenty of water (2 litres per day), but it is very salty. Food is rather scarce.

DUMPS.
Amn - Do not know
Supplies - Dump near ACROMA
POL - Do not know
Water pt - They use a well about 10 kilos along BARDIA Rd.

DATE OF ARRIVAL.
In TRIPOLI - 2 Apr 41
In TOBRUK - 28 Apr 41

GENERAL
O.C. 7 Regt. - Col DURANTI
Organisation - H.Q. & 3 MC Coys
Coy - 3 MC Pl & 1 Hy Pl
Pl - 3 sections each 15 men
Armament - Each section 3 LMGs - each Hy Sec. 3 HMGs.
All are carried either on handle-bars of MC or on back. HMG is two one-man loads.
Amn - Each man carries 300 rds for the MGs and 72 rds for his Carbine.
MCs - Were left about 10 kilos back along the BARDIA Rd under the charge of mechanics.
ITALY - Very strict feed rationing. January air raid on GENOA port caused 220 casualties.

.....

[Handwritten mark]

2/43 "War Diary"
Appendix No: 8

2/43 BN OPERATION ORDER NO. 2.

SECRET
COPY NO. 22
11 May 41.

Ref Map TOBRUK 1:50,000, with overprint.

INFORMATION.

1. ENEMY.

- (a) Troops of 8 Bn of Bersaglierie Regt, supported by several A.Tk guns, are situated in WADI BELGASSEM area. Their defended positions include machine gun posts astride Bardia Rd from about 42624223 to 42584215.
- (b) Our patrols yesterday established the presence of 5 enemy tanks and 3 A.Tk guns in the vicinity of 426416. These tanks were protecting a working party of about 300 Italians engaged on preparation of earthworks about 425418.

INTENTION.

- 2. 2/43 Bn and attached tps will raid the enemy positions in WADI BELGASSEM on 13 May 41.

METHOD.

- 3. Attacking Tps - D Coy 2/43 Bn.
- 4. Supporting tps - One bty 104 R.H.A.
Four bats 2/3 Fd Coy R.A.E.
Four carriers 2/43 Bn
Three carriers "CONROY BN".
One mortar det 2/43 Bn
One pl A.S.C. Coy att 2/43 Bn
~~Two tps tanks 3rd Arm Bde~~ → 1 Tp I tks
2 Tps Cruisers
3 Armoured cars
- 5. Starting Line - BARDIA RD about 42504225.
- 6. Starting Time - ~~To be notified by message. Referred to herein as "N". Approx time is 0550 hrs.~~
- 7. F.U.P. - OLD BARDIA RD about 42484219.
- 8. Direction of Attack - 23° Grid.
- 9. Objectives - One pl will advance to TRIG 124 42584233 and take up defensive position facing NORTH and EAST.
D Coy (less one pl) will advance to Pt 121, 42504237 and exploit along the western side of WADI BELGASSEM. Approx limit of exploitation Pt 110 at 42494247.
- 10. Tanks - ~~Two tps 3 Arm Bde~~ (one tp I tks, one tp Cruiser tks) accompanied by four carriers from 2/43 Bn will support the attack as follows:-
 - (a) I tks and Carriers:- Attack enemy strong post astride BARDIA RD about 42624223 to 42584215.
 - (b) Cruiser tks. Take up a defensive position to the SOUTH of the enemy strongpost mentioned in para 10(a), and be prepared to engage enemy forces from the SOUTH and from the EAST.
 - (c) On completion of task 10(a), the I tks will rally on the Cruiser tks, and assist them in their task.
 - (d) On completion of task 10(a), the four carriers will proceed to vicinity Pt 124, 42654231, and will support the infantry attack by observed fire. One carrier will be prepared to shepherd P.W. captured at enemy strong point, in the direction of BARDIA RD block, taken by JUVA
 - (e) Three carriers from CONROY BN will move to area of Pt 114, 42454241, and will assist the infantry attack by observed fire.

No movement to take place North of 42654231
42484219

11. MORTARS. One mortar det will move with the three carriers from CONROY BN and will take up position in vicinity head of WADI UEDDAN at 42474238. Task: support by observed fire on enemy centres of resistance. The mortar truck will also carry a det 2/3 Fd Coy with demolition charges.

12. ARTY.

- (a) 104 R.H.A. (less one bty) will be prepared to bring down observed fire on any enemy movement SOUTH and EAST of Pt 146, 42514196.
- (b) A F.O.O. will accompany the Cruiser tk tp to a position of observation.
- (c) Five minutes after the withdrawal signal has been given, concentrations will be put down on WADI GERIULA but fire will not be brought down SOUTH of the 4236 EAST and WEST grid line.

2+5
Pt. 117 1/4 North
10 mins normal
15 mins slow
normalist GERIULA.

13. ENGINEERS. 2/3 Fd Coy will provide:-

- (a) Three dets each consisting of one N.C.O. and two sappers, to be placed under comd each Pl Comd respectively.
Task: to effect demolition of enemy weapons and defences.
- (b) One det consisting of one N.C.O. and two Sappers will accompany the Mortar det 2/43 Bn. This det will carry S.T. grenades and demolition charges and will be prepared to demolish cisterns, weapons and defences.
- (c) Crossings over the A.Tk ditch and minefield in the vicinity of posts Z83 and R75. Crossings to be capable of carrying 1 tks.
- (d) Guides from tk assembly area to the crossing at Post R75.

NEST

14. A.S.C. COY. will move one pl to area ~~East~~ of WADI UEDDAN, North of pt 117 about 42424243. Task: to assist the infantry attack by observed fire. Route from present position to the fire position will be decided by O.C. A.S.C. Coy. also 1 Pl of NF.

15. ROUTES.

- (a) D Coy 2/43 Bn. Preceded by a covering section from ^{3700 Paces} C Coy 2/43 Bn, will move out of Post R77 along the line of the OLD BARDIA RD to the F.U.P. Engineer dets will accompany each pl. Return of infantry on completion of raid will be through post Z83.
- (b) Tanks and Four Carriers 2/43 Bn. will assemble in the area cross tracks 420423 at 2200 hrs on 12 May. They will be led by Engr guides to the crossing at vicinity Post R75. After leaving perimeter, movement will be on a bearing of 120° magnetic until meeting a track about 42534200. This track will then be followed in a N.E. direction to the attack on enemy strong point. Note that the track runs to the EAST of the strong point and joins BARDIA RD about 42624219.
Tanks will return through the perimeter over the same crossing but it should be noted that an alternative crossing capable of carrying tanks is being provided in vicinity of post Z83.
- (c) Mortars and Carriers from CONROY FORCE. Assemble at bend in track behind Post Z78 and cross the perimeter in vicinity Z83. Return through same post.

16. TIMINGS.

- Z (Infantry cross starting line.
(Tanks and 2/43 Bn Carriers attack enemy strong point.
(3 Carriers "CONROY BN" and one mortar det leaves
(perimeter.
- Z-8 :- Infantry moves from F.U.P.
- Z-30 (Infantry in F.U.P.
(A.S.C. Coy in position.
- Z-45 :- Tanks have all passed through the perimeter
defences and crossed bridge.
- Z-60 :- 1 tank plus 4 carriers cross bridge
- Z-90 :- Infantry leaves perimeter.
- Z-105 :- Covering section for infantry leaves perimeter.
provided by C Coy. leads Hq. to FUP 2200 hours.

17. SILENCE. No firing of any character will take place before Z, unless under extreme emergency conditions.

ADMIN.

- 18. Smoke generators are to be carried by each Carrier and with each pl.
- 19. P.W. - One Carrier 2/43 Bn may be utilised to shepherd prisoners from vicinity enemy strong point.
One pl A.S.C. Coy from supporting fire position will be prepared to escort P.W. back to post Z83.
*advanced RAP in vicinity of Z83
brother drivers (8) travel with 'D' Coy.*

INTERCOMN

- 20. H.Q. will move 200 yds in rear of the left rear pl.
- 21. Signals. "Operation completed, commence withdrawal" - THREE REDS -
by O.C. D.Coy 2/43 Bn.
"Strong enemy attack on the tanks" - THREE GREENS -
by O.C. Tlx Gp.
- 22. Wireless will be restricted to F.O.O. and Tka.
- 23. Conference of all Comds of units taking part will be held at Adv H.Q. 24 Aust Inf Bde at 1030 hrs 12 May.

Time of Signature. 1715

Issued by

ACK.

[Signature] Lieut.
Adjnt 2/43 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

	<u>Copy No.</u>		<u>Copy No.</u>
D. Coy	1, 2	2/28 Bn	15
G. Coy	3	1 M.F. (Z Coy)	16
A.S.C. Coy	4	20 Aust Inf Bde	17
104 R.H.A.	5,6,7	24 Aust Inf Bde	18,19
3 Armd Bde	8,9,10	9 Aust Div	20
2/3 Fd Coy	11,12,13	War Diary	21,22
CONROY BN	14	File	23,24
		Spares	25,26,27

C Coy provides 1 Officer & 1 section to cover section of bridge in position by 2100 move back on completion of bridge

BUSH ARTY. firing to cover movement of tanks & carriers from 2130 - 2200 100, 75, Belg & Ger 5.9 £144

REF 2/43 BN OPERATION ORDER NO. 2.

SECRET
Copy No. 24
12 May 41.

1. The following modifications to 2/43 Bn Operation Order No. 2 issued on 11 May 41 are issued as the outcome of the co-ordinating conference held at HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde on 12 May at 1030 hrs.

METHOD

4. Supporting Tps: (a) Add "One pl Z Coy 1 N.F.
(b) 3rd Armd Bde is now providing the following:-
3 I tks
6 Cruiser tks
3 Armd Cs.
6. Starting Time - Z is 0550 hrs.
9. Objectives - With regard to the pl objective at vicinity Trig 124, it should be understood that infantry or carriers must not move more than 200 yds to the EAST of the Trig, as the area of pt 117 at 42634234 will be shelled by 104 R.H.A.
10. Tanks. Armd Cs will be utilised to effect communication between O.C. D.Coy 2/43 Bn and the tk gp. They will leave the perimeter with the tk group but will dispose themselves thereafter at the discretion of their Comd.
12. Arty. Add para (d) - Fire concentrations on enemy gun position on pt 117, 42634234 from
Z plus 5 to Z plus 15 rate normal ✓
Z plus 15 to Z plus 30 " slow
13. Engineers. Add to para (c) Bridges will be constructed between the hours of 2130 and 2200 hrs to coincide with firing of "BUSH" artillery with the object of screening the noise of approach of tanks.
Add (e) Crossings will be protected during the whole operation by anti tank guns disposed within the perimeter by 2/43 Bn.
14. A.S.C. Coy. Add para (b). One pl Z Coy 1 N.F. will accompany A.S.C. pl to the WEST side of WADI UEDDAN and support the infantry attack by observed fire. ✓
15. Para (b) - Tanks and carriers will assemble at 2200 hrs in lieu of 2100 hrs as previously stated.
Add para (d) "BUSH" arty. To mask the sound of the approach of tks from EL ADEM rd junc to the assembly area, 2/43 "BUSH" arty will fire concentrations from 2130 to 2200 hrs.
16. Timings. Passage of tanks through the perimeter will be as follows:-
Z - 60 I tks and Carriers 2/43 Bn
Z - 45 Cruiser tks

24. Identification of our tks, Armd Cs and Carriers.

All tps should be warned of the standard method of recognition of these vehicles.

Two blue pennants will fly from the top of the wireless mast or pole. When the Armd Cs and tks move through the perimeter, the wireless masts will be in a horizontal position. During the action, they will be in a vertical position.

25. Synchronisation of Watches. At the following hours:-

12 May - 1800 hrs and 2200 hrs

13 May - 0300 hrs

3 Armd Bde will obtain synchronisation direct from 9 Aust Div., remaining units by telephone from Bde I.O. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Time of Signature 1515

Issued by

ACK.

[Handwritten Signature]
Lieut.
Adjt 2/43 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

D. Coy
C. Coy
A.S.C. Coy
104 R.H.A.
3 Armd Bde
2/3 Fd Coy
CONROY BN

Copy no.

1, 2
3
4
5, 6, 7
8, 9, 10
11, 12, 13
14

2/28 Bn
1 H.F. (2 Coy)
20 Aust Inf Bde
24 Aust Inf Bde
9 Aust Div
War Diary
File
Spares

Copy no.

15
16
17
18, 19
20
21, 22
23, 24
25, 26, 27

2/43 Bn War Diary

Appendix No.:

SECRET.
COPY NO...4...
12 May, 41

2/43 Bn. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION

Appendix to Operation Order No. 2

1. TUTO will provide:-

- (a) Covering party- one offr & one sec- to be under comd NERO
- (b) Covering party- one sec with LMG & A Tk rifle- to cover erection of bridge over A Tk ditch vicinity 283- to be in position by 2130 hrs.
- (c) Covering party- one sec with LMG & A Tk rifle- to cover erection of bridge over A Tk ditch 150 yds South of R75- to be in position by 2130 hrs.

2. TINT "Bush" Arty will fire concentration on 12 May as follows:

- (a) 100 mm guns (2) vicinity pt 117 42634234
- (b) 75 mm guns (6) WADI BELGASSEM vicinity EW grid 424
- (c) 149 mm guns (4) vicinity Trig 144 42324132

Firing will commence at 2130 hrs and will continue until 2200 hrs.

Rate- as fast as possible

Purpose- to cover approach of I Tks and Cruiser Tks.
to cover movement of Carriers to R.V.
to cover erection of bridges over A Tk ditch

3. SUVA will arrange escorts for POW 13 May from behind perimeter to TINT HQ. Officers & NCOs will be separated & sent to ESRA HQ by MT. SUVA will prepare sacks for documents and POW labels in collaboration with I.O.

Rf Namer Liuet.
Adj. TINT.

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000 with overprint

DISTINCTING FEATURES → Ruin- Sidi BELGASSEM - CAIRN STONES - TRIG 124

I. INFORMATION

1. Enemy

Portions of at least 2 Bns occupy Wadis BELGASSEM and GERIULA and the area about 42624223 astride the BARDIA rd to about 42584215 with MGS probably about this area and the head of the two Wadis. Some A/Tk guns probably about the head of Wadi GERIULA.

2. Own Troops

17 Pl yesterday established the locality of enemy positions along the Western edge of Wadi BELGASSEM.

II. INTENTION

"D" Coy will destroy the enemy about the head of Wadi BELGASSEM and its Western edge on 13 May 41.

III. METHOD

Fwd Pls 16 Pl on right, 18 Pl on left
Reserve 17 Pl will move 300x in rear 18 Pl.

IV. OBJECTIVES

First Objective 16 Pl TRIG 124 incl - Wadi incl. Pl must not move more than 200x to the EAST of the TRIG, as the area of Pt 117 as 42634234 will be shelled by 104 R.H.A.
18 Pl Pt 121 (incl) (42504237) - Wadi excl.

Second Objective "D" Coy (less 16 Pl) - the line of sangars extending along Western edge of Wadi BELGASSEM to a point about 42494247.

On capture of first objective 16 Pl will take up position vicinity TRIG 124 facing NORTH & EAST to cover movement to second objective. 18 Pl and 17 Pl will push on without delay to second objective.

V. STARTING LINE BARDIA rd about 42504225.

VI. STARTING TIME 0550 hrs.

VII. FORMING UP PLACE

Old BARDIA rd - (a) 16 Pl about 42484219
(b) 18 Pl about 42424221
(c) 17 Pl 300x rear 18 Pl.

Fwd Pls to form up astride ROAD. 400x interval between Pls. Movement to be completed by 0530 hrs.

VIII. PLACE OF ASSEMBLY "D" Coy and attached tps rear of post R 77 by 0330 hrs.

IX. ROUTES

1. To F.U. Place (Commencing 0420 hrs)
From Post R77 along line of OLD BARDIA ROAD by secs at 250x interval. Rt fwd Sec 16 Pl will halt at 3,000 paces, and will then contact covering party. Interval between covering party and the Sec will not be less than 150x when final position is taken up.

2. At completion of attack troops will return through Post Z 83.

X. DIRECTION OF ATTACK

(a) 16 Pl 29 degrees m.
(b) 18 Pl 28 " "
(c) 17 Pl in rear 18 Pl.

XI. RATE OF ADVANCE

100 yds in 1 min to starting line to be maintained beyond that if possible.

XII. SUPPORTING ARMS

1. One Tp "I" Tanks Two Tp Cruiser Tanks.
Task - (a) To attack enemy position about 42624223-42584215.
 (b) Protection of flanks to SOUTH and EAST.
2. 4 Carriers 2/43 Bn
Task - (a) Assist Tanks in XII (a) above.
 (b) Support attack on first objective.
 (c) Protect withdrawal.
3. 3 Carriers Conroy Bn
Task - (a) Support attack on Second objective.
 (b) Protect withdrawal.
4. 1 Det 3" Mortars
Task - (a) Support attack on second objective.
5. One Bty R.H.A.
Task - (a) Observed fire on enemy movement SOUTH and EAST of TRIG 146.
 (b) Concentration on Wadi GERIULA on WITHDRAWAL SIGNAL plus 5 mins.
 (c) Concentration on Pt 117 at Z ~~fix~~ plus 5 to Z plus 30
6. 1 Pl NF.
Task - Observed fire on Western edge of Wadi BELGASSEM.
7. 3 Armoured Cars
Task - Communication between O.C. "D" Coy and Tank Group.

XIII. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (a) There will be no firing before ZERO except under ~~exceptional~~ extreme emergency conditions.
- (b) One Det 3 Fd Coy (1 NCO & 2 O.Rs) will come under comd of Pls as from 0330 hrs. Task - demolition of enemy weapons and equipment.
- (c) One Pl ASC Coy will occupy an area about 42424243. Task - To assist attack by observed fire on WESTERN edge Wadi BELGASSEM.
- (d) A covering Sec of "C" Coy will move out at 0405 hrs.

XIV. ADMIN

- (a) Smoke generators will be carried as follows:-
 16 Pl 3 17 Pl 2 18 Pl 2 Coy HQ 2.
- (b) P.O.W. must not be allowed to delay attack. These will, wherever possible be guided towards the Wadi WEDDAN, where ASC Pl will escort. One carrier from 2/43 Bn may also be used for this purpose.
- (c) Amn & Weapons
 - (i) Additional 3 Brens will be carried by 16 Pl.
 - (ii) Additional 1 Mortar with ea. Pl and one with Coy HQ.
 - (iii) Four grenades to be issued to each man.
 - (iv) Each man to carry 120 rds SAA (50 in Bandolier).
- (d) R.A.P.
 An advanced R.A.P. will be established near Post Z 83. Walking wounded will move back towards Z 83 and will be met and transported to R.A.P. Four S.B. squads will be attached and will move in rear Coy HQ.

XV. INTERCOMN

- (a) Coy HQ will move 200x rear 17 Pl.
- (b) Signals
 - (i) "Operation completed - commence withdrawal"
 THREE REDS from Coy HQ.
 - (ii) "Strong enemy attack on Tanks"
 THREE GREENS from O.C. Tank group.

On either of these signals troops will immediately commence to withdraw, if necessary under cover of smoke.
- (c) Conference of all sub unit Comds will be held at Coy HQ 1400 hrs 12 May.

DISTRIBUTION

- 16 Pl
- 17 Pl
- 18 Pl
- 2 I/C
- 2/43 Bn
- C.S.M.
- C Coy.

[Signature] Capt.,
 O.C. "D" Coy.

[Handwritten mark]

24 AUST INF BDE.

REPORT ON OPERATION 13 May 41.

I have to report as follows:-

1. The operation was unsuccessful.
2. Narrative:

The attacking Coy 2/43 BN, the supporting pl ASC and the pl NF moved out and took up posns according to plan. It is NOT known when the Carriers 2/43 BN and Tks moved from the perimeter. Sounds of movement of these vehs were heard between 0430 and 0445 hrs inside the perimeter, and from 0510 onwards outside the perimeter.

It is NOT known whether these sounds were heard by the enemy but it appears obvious that he was prepared for the attack.

The weather was cloudy and there were periods of mist before zero (0550 hrs) rendering visibility very limited. Even up to 0630 visibility for the Coy making the attack was NOT more than 700 yds.

Before Z-8 light intermittent enemy MG fire occurred, probably searching fire over a fairly large area in the vicinity of the Coy.

At Z-8 the attacking Coy left the FUP and proceeded to the Starting Line coming under light MG fire shortly after the movement commenced. On reaching the Starting Line the fire was intensified and was established as coming from the strong point astride BARDIA rd (I tks objective) and from the direction of the WADI BELGASSEM.

At Z plus 1 the I tks followed by the 2/43 Bn Carriers moved from the South through the rear pl and proceeded North over the BARDIA rd, having come approximately 1,000 yds West of their objective. This error appears to have been caused by the Carrier which was leading the Tks having mistaken the track along which they had to advance. There are two almost parallel tracks in the vicinity and in the mist which was fairly thick at the time and the limited visibility, the Carrier in its search for the correct track located the Western one and the I tks then taking the lead, proceeded as mentioned above. Definite confirmation on this point cannot be obtained as the officer who was responsible for the guiding of the I tks has NOT returned.

The Coy Comd tried to attract the attention of the Tks to put them on to their correct objective but was unable to do so even from positions practically against them. He did, however, attract the attention of one of the Carriers whom he ordered to get the tks on to their objective, and if successful, to attack the objective themselves. The Carrier was unable to affect the movement of the tks but with the others proceeded towards the strongpoint.

At about 0552 hrs, three green flares (the signal for withdrawal under pressure on the tks) was observed by personnel of all pls, one of which then commenced to withdraw, the remainder halting. The Coy Comd attempted to prevent this action but was unable to cover the distance between the sections concerned. He did, however, stop one section which recommenced the attack.

Three green flares were observed from BN Battle HQ about this time but they were too far to the North, too widely spaced, and did NOT appear to have come from the same posn to have been mistaken for the signal from the tks, but it appears certain that some of the men in these secs saw them and infmd their Comds that the signal had been fired.

After about 10 mins, seeing that the bulk of the Coy had withdrawn, the Coy Comd fired the recall signal, and although the Armcd Cars and three CONROY BN Carriers arrived and attempted together with one sec to attack enemy MG posns, for a further short period, the withdrawal was finally carried out in good order under very heavy fire during which two of the three Carriers were put out of action, and several casualties occurred.

The supporting pl on the left flank and the pl H.F., not being able to observe any targets, did NOT fire, and withdrew on the signal.

The Coy Comd was the last to leave the area to which the Coy had advanced and checked in the whole Coy.

Casualties reported are:

2/43 BN	1 OR killed.
	1 offr 7 ORs wounded.
	1 offr missing.
Armcd Cs -	Nil.
Engrs -	Nil.
Tks -	No report.

Material:

3 Carriers damaged and abandoned with their weapons, except one Bren gun brought in;
Two I tks damaged and NOT brought in;
1 ITALIAN 2" Mortar unworkable and abandoned.

A party of 2/43 BN moved out later to attempt to salvage the weapons from the Carriers and to locate Lieut PRATT who did NOT return but on encountering heavy enemy fire was forced to return without success.

The estimated number of enemy weapons is:

(a) at strongpoint (astride BARDIA rd) -

9 M.Gs
6 A.Tk guns.

(b) Vicinity WADI BELGASSEM -

7 M.Gs
1 3" mortar (at least).

3. Summary:

Causes of the failure of the operation appear to be:

- (a) The fact that surprise was NOT achieved;
- (b) The error in direction of the I tks and Carriers which resulted in their NOT reaching their objective, thereby subjecting the attacking Coy to continued heavy enfilade fire;
- (c) The mistaken impression that the signal to withdraw had been fired.

I desire to emphasise that the Coy Comd concerned is in no way responsible for the lack of success of the operation.

W. J. M. McCallum
..... Lt col.
Comd 2/43 Bn

2/43 Bn.,
13 May 41.

24 Aust Inf Bde.

Additional Information on Action of "I" Tks
and 2/43 Bn Carriers 13 May 41.

All the members of the Carrier Pl present in 2/43 Bn lines have been interviewed and the following is a summary of their knowledge of the events connected with the turning-point to the North towards their objective.

The "I" Tks and Carriers crossed the ditch punctually at Z-60, and were guided by Lieut PRATT Comd 2/43 Carriers. All the members of the Carrier Pl state that they considered the course taken to be too far to the North, and at one stage Cpl HOLLOW asked Lieut PRATT to check his bearing, after which the course was altered slightly towards the East. At about 0525 the leading Carrier stopped at a track running roughly North and South. Lieut PRATT seemed confident that this was the right track, but all the others state that they were sure it was the wrong one, because the correct track had been extensively used, and had deep ruts in it, whereas this track had not; and also because the track appeared to bear too far to the West. The Comd "I" Tks also was doubtful, but said that if the track brought them out on the BARDIA rd too far to the West, he would turn East and so reach the objective. The "I" Tks moved off along the track at 0535 hrs followed by the Carriers.

No member of the Carrier Pl noticed the damage to the "I" Tks, but they consider that only 2 lb shells were fired at them.

Additional information received from Carriers CONROY Bn is to the effect that one Bren Gun, spare barrel and Box of magazines, and one Breda Gun with some magazines were salvaged from the damaged Carriers, and one Boys Rifle brought part of the way in.

Personnel report 2 enemy definitely killed and 4 wounded and possibly killed.

Ever Cullin
Lt Col.,
Comd 2/43 Bn.

TINT MOVEMENT ORDER

1. RELIEFS

TINT will be relieved by OLGE night 16/17 May.

2. DIV Reserve MT will carry personnel and personal gear and equipment of relieving Bn fwd, and carry this Unit on return journey.
3. Relief is expected to reach this area by 2100 hrs. All Coys will be prepared to load personal and gear from 2030 hrs onwards.
4. The Bn will remain for 2 days at FT AIRENTE (Ref TOBRUK 1/50,000: 40994338)

5. RECCE

- (a) Reps of OLGE will reach TINT HQ at 0930 hrs. Coys will be prepared to supply guides to Pl areas from Coy HQ.
- (b) Coy reps to recce AIRENTE area will be detailed as under:

Rifle Coys - Coy 2 I/C, 3 Pl Sgts
HQ Coy - 3 Reps
Bn HQ - 2 Reps

- (c) Coy reps will take personal gear, will remain at AIRENTE and act as guides to Coys moving in at night.
- (d) Tpt will be at HALO HQ 0830 hrs, SUDO 0840 hrs and TINT HQ 0845 hrs to convey Coy reps to AIRENTE.

6. STORES

One 30 cwt lorry will be available for each Coy to carry fighting equipment (weapons and amm) and essential stores. This veh will remain with Coys at AIRENTE, but only stores required for use will be unloaded.

7. All other stores will be dumped at Rear Bn H.Q. in the final posn in EL ADEM sector. B ech tpt will be used to convey these stores.
8. Coys will advise TINT HQ at once how much B ech tpt they require for this purpose.
9. Coy Stereman and one other will be detailed to remain at Rear Bn HQ and watch Coy stores dumps.

10. WATER

Three days reserve supply of water will be left at each post. Any surplus reserve may be taken away by Coys. Tanks will be conveyed to Rear Bn HQ under tpt arrangements to be made by Sgt GILCHRIST.

11. Water rations for night 16/17 will be delivered to Coys after moving in at AIRENTE. Each Coy will provide itself with drums to receive water whilst in that area.
12. Carriers and their crews will report to HQ CONROY BN at 1400 hrs. Personal gear will be loaded on carriers.
13. Six members of Pioneer Pl will report to HQ CONROY BN at 0800 hrs to assist in the preparation of Rear Bn HQ. Personal gear will be taken, also all spare sandbags, 6 picks, 6 shevels. Tpt will report to HOB0 HQ at 0815 hrs.
14. All personnel moving before the time of normal relief will carry one day's rations. The first regular meal served in new position will be breakfast on 17 May 41.

15. The following will be left in present unit area:

- All A/Tk guns
- 2 75 mm guns
- 1 100 mm gun
- 1 149 mm gun
- 3 days reserve rations and water.

The position with respect to ammunition is still uncertain
Coys will be advised as soon as definite instructions are
obtained.

16. Two men from the 100 mm gun crews will remain as instructors
in the "Bush Arty" until further notified.

Handwritten scribble

R. H. Hames Lieut
Adj. Lt Col.,
TINT.

2/43 In War Diary
Appendix No. 12

SECRET

104th. REGIMENT R.H.A. OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 33.

COPY No. 4

1. One Section from "A" Troop will move forward to a sniping position to engage enemy defended area astride BARDIA ROAD at 42704210.
2. First gun will move at 1945 hrs. on 19th. May. Interval between guns and/or vehicles leaving present position will be 5 minutes.
3. Guns will come into action in WADI 41944256.
4. Zero line 120° grid.
5. Firing will take place between 2100 hrs. 19th. May and 0500 hrs. 20th. May by bursts of gun fire at NORMAL rate.
6. Tasks will be issued later.
7. Route as already detailed verbally to Tp. Commander.
8. Ammunition 60 r.p.g.
9. Section will return to present position at 0615 hrs. 20th. May.

In the Field.
19th. May 1941.

Sd/- J.H. Raikes, Captain RHA.,
Adjutant,
104th. Regiment, R.H.A.

Distribution.:-

O.C. 339 Battery	1.
O.C. "A" Troop	2.
24th. Aust Inf Bde.	3 - 4.
File	5 - 6.

2/43 In

For your info.
[Signature]

2/43 Bn OPERATION ORDER NO 3.

Ref Map - TOBRUK 1/50,000

INFORMATION

- 1. Enemy - Summary will be issued later.
- 2. Own Tps 2/15 Bn is occupying the perimeter from R 11 to R 34 2/28 Bn will relieve 2/15 Bn on night 23/24 May. 2/17 Bn is occupying the perimeter from R35 to R53. 2/1 Pnr Bn is Bde Reserve occupying the Blue Line between EL ADEM & PILAS-TRINO rds.

INTENTION

- 3. 2/43 Bn will relieve 2/1 Pnr Bn on afternoon 23 May 41.

METHOD

- 4. Reliefs will take place as under (Coy strengths shown in brackets)

"B" Coy	2/43 Bn	(91)	will	relieve	"A" Coy	2/1 Pnr Bn	(128)
"C" Coy	"	(101)	"	"	"C"	"	(123)
"D" Coy	"	(109)	"	"	"B"	"	(140)
"A" Coy	"	(116)	"	"	"D"	"	(109)

 BHQ & HQ Coy will relieve corresponding sub-units.

- 5. Tp Carrying Tpt
309 Coy RASC will supply vehs as under for the move and will report to Coy Areas by 1330 hrs 23 May 41.

BHQ	2
HQ Coy	5
A Coy	5
B Coy	5
C Coy	5
D Coy	6

- 6. Coys will arrange debussing points in new posn, and will notify Coy Comds of Pnr Bn.

7. Timings

BHQ will leave present posn at 1400 & 1410 hrs.
 HQ Coy will leave present posn at 1415 hrs and at 15 min intervals thereafter.
 A Coy will leave present posn at 1420 hrs and at 15 min intervals thereafter.
 B Coy will leave present posn at 1415 hrs and at 10 min intervals thereafter.
 C Coy will leave present posn at 1420 hrs and at 10 min intervals thereafter.
 D Coy will leave present posn at 1425 hrs and at 15 min intervals thereafter.

8. Routes

BHQ, HQ, A, D Coys - via BARDIA rd, EL ADEM rd junc.
 B, C Coys - via Ft PILASTRINO & PILASTRINO track.

9. Anti-Parachute Det.

T.O. will send 2 30 cwt lorries to report to HQ C Coy 2/1 Pnr Bn at 1300 hrs to convey pl to relieve A Coy 2/43 Bn. Guides will be provided at AIRENTE at 1330 hrsto lead det to sec posts.

- 10. Coy A Ech tpt will move under Coy arrangements.
- 11. Q.M. will arrange for Coy stores incl water tks to be taken fwd to new Coy areas.
- 12. Attachments
Cooks, Sigs & S.Bs at present attached to Rifle Coys will move with them. All other personnel from HQ Coy at present attached elsewhere will revert under comd and will report to Capt STRETTON at 1300 hrs 23 May.

ADM

- 13. Amn. 2/1 Pnr Bn will take away 2 grenades, 150 rds SAA per man, Bren mags full. Res SAA, grenades, mortar bombs and ST grehades will be taken over from 2/1 Pnr Bn.
- 14. Water Three days res of water (1 1/2 gall per man) will be taken over from 2/1 Pnr Bn.
- 15. Rations Three days res rations will also be taken over from 2/1 Pnr Bn. These should include bully beef and biscuits, milk, tea & sugar
- 16. Trench Stores These will be taken over from 2/1 Pnr Bn and will incl tools, sandbags, camouflage eqpt and wire.
- 17. Inventory & Check Coy comds will ensure that sec Comds make an immediate check and inventory; a receipt will be given for all stores taken over. Any deficiencies will be reported at once to BHQ.
- 18. The following personnel will comprise Rear BHQ, 2 I/C, QM and Staff

18. (CTD)
Carriers crews, mobile Vickers Det, A Ech Tpt.
19. Medical
R.A.P. will be located in rear of BHQ at 42964274.

INTERCOMN

20. BHQ will close present location at 1400 hrs and reopen at 42964273 at 1500 hrs 23 May 41.
21. All existing telephones and cable comms of 2/1 Pnr Bn will be taken over in new posn.
22. Code Word: On completion of relief Coys will signal "ADELAIDE" to BHQ.

ACK
Issued through Sigs and signed
at 2230 hrs

R. Haner Lieut.,
Adjnt 2/43 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

- How*
- Copy 1 C.O.
 - 2 2 I/C
 - 3 Adjnt
 - 4 HQ Coy
 - 5 A Coy
 - 6 B Coy
 - 7 C Coy
 - 8 Coy D Coy
 - 9 309 Coy RASC
 - 10 RMO
 - 11 QM
 - 12 TO
 - 13 2/1 Pnr Bn
 - 14 24 Aust Inf Bde
 - 15 War Diary
 - 16 War Diary
 - 17 File
 - 18 Spare.

War Diary

10 May, 41

2/43bn. War Diary

BASH PATROL REPORT

Appendix No: _____

1. STRENGTH 1 Offr 29 ORs with a covering force 300 yds in rear of
1 Offr 22 ORs. 2 Carriers to move out on S.O.S. signal.
2. OBJECT To ambush an enemy party observed to occupy position
WEST of WADI WEDDAN by day.
3. TIME OF DEPARTURE 0300 hrs.
4. ACTION Patrol moved out from Rd. Block on a bearing of 22 deg
for 1600 yds and reached vicinity of twin columns at 0405
hours, where they took up a position. The patrol remained
in occupation until 0707 hrs.
0610 Movement seen in ridge between WADIS WEDDAN and
BELGASSEM. 1 Man moved from a sangar approx 1000 yds EAST.
In next 15 min five men were observed moving about in the
area of various sangars numbering about 10. Another moved
from a conical mound further to SOUTH and about same dis-
tance away. Later further movement seen in area of sangars
probably for observation over area towards WADI ZEITUN.
The enemy did not attempt to move fwd to occupy this pos-
ition.
At 0707 enemy commenced shelling in rear of the position
and fired 3 shells of approx 3" calibre.
The patrol commenced moving back and en route 5 shells
were fired bursting in the vicinity of the patrol but
causing no casualties.
5. RETURN The patrol returned through post Z83 at 0725 hrs.
6. COVERING FORCE REPORTS:-

Gun flash bearings taken pinpoint gun to be in area
42524232. Another gun fired from a position half way
down WADI BELGASSEM and another at long range probably
on REBE front.

J. Wilton Lieut
for Lt Col.
Comd. BASH

BASH,
10 May 41.

PATROL REPORT

2/43Bn. War Diary
Appendix No: _____

STRENGTH Lieut R.F. SUDHOLZ in comd 3 Carriers.
OBJECT To determine enemy strength in area 42324182.

TIME OF DEPARTURE 1530 hrs.

ACTION

Patrol moved out from Post R 69 on bearing of 110 degrees for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Crossed track 1000 yds NORTH of TRIG 146, turned SOUTH for about 2000 yds.

On reverse side of crest square 425418 encountered enemy working party of about 50 with other working parties to the WEST. Total enemy strength estimated at approx 200 apparently unarmed. Five tanks and 3 light A/Tk guns were seen 1200 yds to the S.E. of the working party. Patrol proceeded through the working parties firing and throwing grenades under fire from A/Tk guns and tanks from the S.E.

Some casualties were caused, at least 3 seen dead in one group, but as 26 Bren Mags and half belt of Vickers and ten grenades were fired from stationary vehicles, at point blank range casualties although not seen may be considerable.

Patrol then turned NW about 42354185 and proceeded towards R 69. No damage to vehicles or personnel.

RETURN The patrol returned through Post R 69 at 1625.

OBSERVATION

1. Men seen were wearing Italian uniform with boots of a better pattern than the normal soldier. They wore steel helmets very similar to the British pattern.
2. No small arms fire came from enemy during course of the fight. They were obviously employed in digging gun pits as the excavations were much larger than any type of weapon pit yet noticed, and are similar to gun pits inside perimeter. About 10 large pits and about 30 smaller pits in the process of construction.
3. The digging was taking place on a reverse slope stretching from 42684190 to 42224178.
4. Tanks seen were large with approx 9 ft track.

Lt Col.,
Comd BASH.



ENEMY POSNS AND FEATURES IN ENEMY TERRITORY.

TWIN COLUMNS. These are at approx 42424246 and are about 12 ft high. They are not hollow and are made of loose stones, with wire framework on outside. No positive evidence that they are used by the enemy for observation or otherwise.

OLD RUIN: at 42484247 - is occupied by the enemy as an OP, particularly from first light to about 0900 hrs and from approx 1900 hrs to dark.

TALL HOUSE: with pole at its Southern side. Is probably on the eastern side of WADI HESIERAT and there is no record of any movt in its immediate vicinity, but M T movt which may lead to it has been observed.

NORTH RUIN at approx 42574241 - movt reported here on one or two occasions.

SOUTH RUIN at approx 42494234 - occasional movt is seen here and more is suspected.

MOUND at pt 137 (42674210) is the approx left flank of enemy posn astride the BARDIA rd. This posn runs from approx this mound to approx 42844210.

WADI WEDDAN contains some stone bldgs on eastern side approx 42474245. At least three 2" mortars here on 19 May 41. There are probably dugouts of some description in this WADI. A well defined track leads down this WADI to the sea. A line of about 10 stone sangars runs along the high ground at approx 42494241-5. Some L M Gs are sited in these sangars. M T has been parked at approx 42454259 and 42524257.

WADI BELGASSEM: Strength of enemy posns and dispositions NOT known. L M Gs have been fired from here and a gun (not identified) has been sited in its head on occasions. M T has been dispersed in this WADI.

WADI GERIULA: is used by the enemy - not known to what extent. M T has been parked, dispersed, in this WADI.

GENERAL: Enemy maintains observer at abandoned I tk - observer has m/c.

A mine field is being laid astride BARDIA rd approx 2,900 yds out. Field probably covered by fixed lines.

Exact strength and dispositions NORTH of the BARDIA rd are NOT known.

Night working parties have been active during the last 2/3 nights.

There is some movt around TRIG 146 (square 425419) and posns, containing 4 anti-tk guns and other weapons are in area 42684190 to 42224178.

The areas in vicinity of Blockhouse (42124249) and of post Z 93 are shelled occasionally, and high ground NORTH of BARDIA rd 500 yds WEST of WADI ZEITUN also receives attention. Posts Z 80, Z 78 and R 76 are shelled occasionally; MG has fired across R 76 on fixed lines. The tall pole OP at 42254235 was shrapnelled and M Ged but has NOT been fired on for at least 14 days. Observer has used it safely during that period. It was registered very accurately.

OP at Trig 139 (square 420422) gives good observation and cross lines from there and Trig 121 (42194250) will give posns of all mounds and ruins accurately. I cannot guarantee all my placings (mound at 42484247 is correct).

R H A use Trig 139 as OP (on phone HURTON BOX).

Macdonald, J.
..... "I" Sec. TINT. (Three copies)

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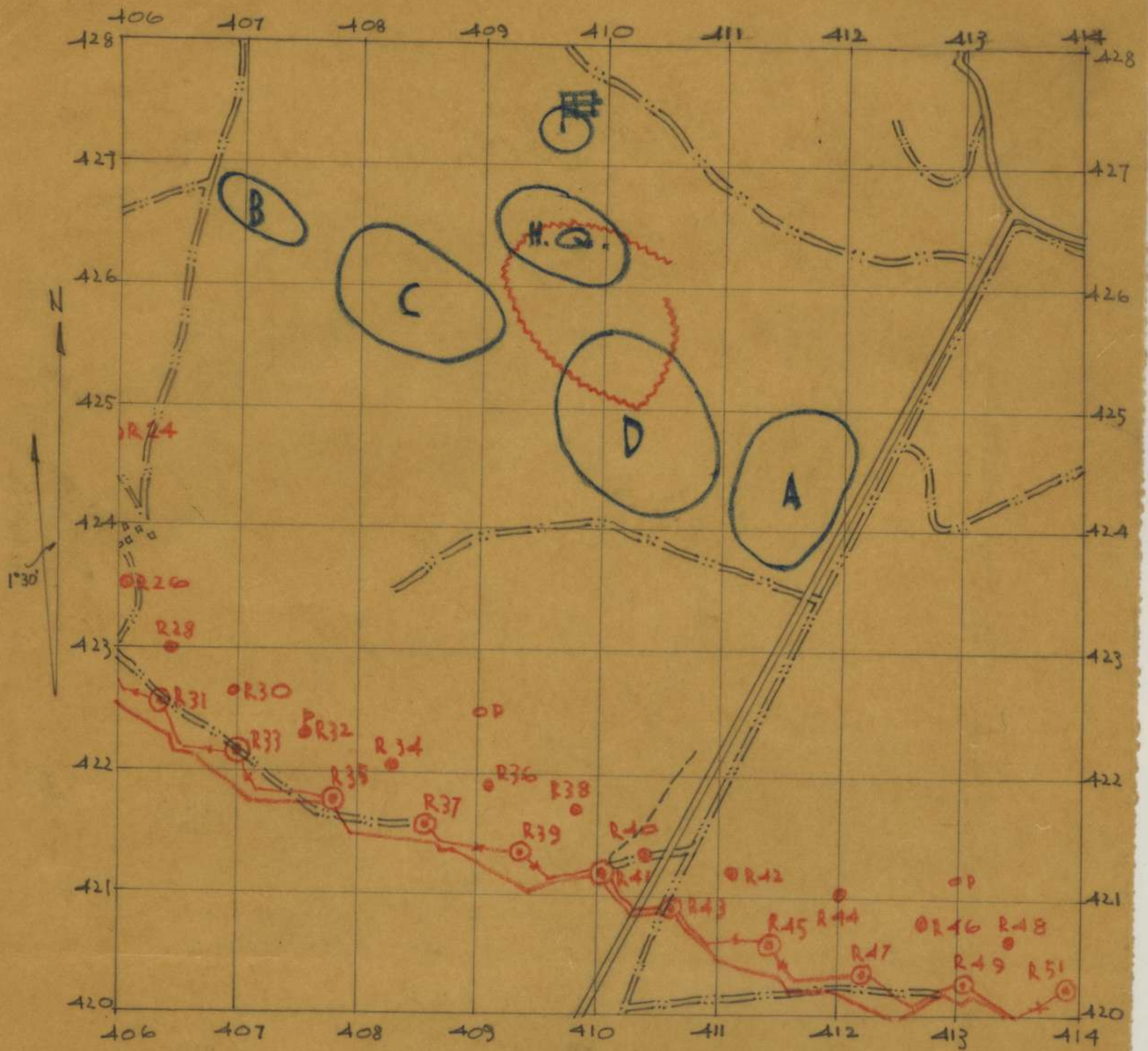
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Scale 1/50,000 1 Inch = 0.789 miles

2/43 Bn War Diary
7 May 41.

Appendix No: _____

BASH PATROL REPORT.

(for 24 hrs to 0600 on 7 May, 41).

DAYLIGHT PATROLS.

Nil.

NIGHT PATROLS.

1. Strength: 1 Cpl and 2 ORs.
2. Object: To ascertain if any signs of enemy in general area wadi BELGASSEM and wadi WEDDAN, southern ends.
3. Departure: Left Z.83 at 0130 hrs.
4. Action: The patrol moved on a bearing of 120 degrees, proceeded to approx 830 yards and discovered a stone cairn, but found no trace of enemy occupation. The patrol then moved on a bearing of 30 degrees for approx 300 yds and discovered a plane, wrecked and burnt out,, with engine 15 yds from remainder of machine and large crater where it hit. No means of recognition in night but presume enemy plane. No weapons seen. Appears to have been there for some time as it was covered with dirt.
(NOTE: This is GERMAN plane ~~XXXXXXXX~~ which was destroyed on 12 Apr). The patrol returned to the cairn and proceeded on original bearing to ~~1250~~ 1250 yds where it found numerous wheel tracks, some of them from heavy vehicles. No A.P.V. tracks seen.
At approx 1340 yds found home made fireplace apparently recently used.
At 1800 yds found well worn track (all wheeled).
The patrol proceeded to approx 2920 yds and discovered nothing further.
The patrol reconnoitred approx 200 yds in width.
5. Return: The patrol returned through post Z.81 at 0515.
6. General: Visibility about 200 yds with moon; after moon set then about 50 yds. Following wind and difficult to hear movement to east. No signs of enemy seen.

.....
Lieut.
IO BASH

2/43 Bn Wadi Diary
BASH.
8 May 41.

Appendix No: _____

PATROL REPORT.

(for 24 hrs to 0600, 8 May 41).

NIGHT PATROL.

1. STRENGTH: 1 NCO and 3 ORs from NERO.
2. OBJECT: To patrol WADI WEDDAN and report on any enemy movement.
3. TIME OF DEPARTURE: 2310 hrs.

ACTION: The patrol moved east from post Z. 93, direct to WADI WEDDAN. The patrol stopped at lip of WADI WEDDAN until 0330 and listened for movement. At 0130 heard a m/c and 2 or 3 MT moving between WADIS WEDDAN and BELGASSEM. The m/c was moving in direction of BARDIA rd and MT towards the sea. The patrol patrolled the western side of the WADI WEDDAN to the head, stopping and listening but heard nothing more.

Left vicinity of WADI WEDDAN at approx 0330. Several tracks and two crude weapon pits were seen on the flat ground between the two wadis. The pits showed no signs of recent habitation; tracks were made some time ago.

Two parallel tracks between 18 ins and 2 ft wide which may have been caused by a MG being dragged were seen. This track was 20 yds long. No sign and no sound of any enemy was seen in the WADI WEDDAN.

4. RETURN: The patrol returned through post Z. 81 at 0440 hrs.
5. GENERAL: Visibility about 250 yds. No wind.

J. Wilson
..... Lieut.
IO. BASH.

BASH
9 May 41.PATROL REPORTFor 24 hrs ending 0600 9 May 41.

Appendix No _____

Fighting Patrol

1. The patrol consisted of 1 Offr 29 O/Rs.
2. Departure Patrol left Rd Block 2200 hrs.
3. Object To locate water cisterns in square 424424, and to render them unusable to the enemy.
4. Action

Patrol moved on bearing of 35 degrees. After 1500 yds, patrol halted, and investigated a hollow on the right, and approx 8 sangars in the vicinity. A wadi was discovered to the NW (thought to be Wadi WEDDAN at approx 42454244)

Between 2345 and 0010 hrs sounds of MT were heard in the distance to the East in the direction from which the arty fired later fired.

Patrol went to ground for 30 mins, at about 2400 hrs, while a small party attempted to locate the water cisterns.

At 0010 hrs enemy arty began shelling and fired about 8 rds. The bearing of the gun flashes was approx 133 degrees, and the sound took $6\frac{1}{2}$ seconds to reach the spot after the flash.

At 0030 patrol moved down the western edge of Wadi WEDDAN, with scouts on the lip ever looking the whole wadi to the North.

Numerous sangars were found along the edge of the wadi with no sign of recent occupation, except for some British hand grenades (2).

At 0055 hrs patrol reached point approx 42454249, and then turned and headed for R 81, guided by flares.

From 400 yds onwards on the way out, numerous MT tracks were crossed, running in various directions, but mainly N.S. In the vicinity of the Wadi, there were many tracks, all covered with recent sand and showing no sign of recent use.

A party was sent to investigate two columns (definitely located at 42424245)

This patrol illustrates the difficulty of locating points on the map without landmarks, because the patrol assumed that it was moving along the western edge of Wadi BELGASSEM, and searched there for the water cisterns, whereas a reconstruction of its movement particularly in relation to the twin columns, shows that they were actually just West of WEDDAN.
5. Return Patrol moved in through R 81 at 0135 hrs.

S. Seward Lieut.,
Adjt BASH

BASH PATROL REPORT.

9 May 41.

2/43 Bn War Diary
Appendix No: _____

DAYLIGHT PATROLS:

1. STRENGTH: Three Carriers MG under Lieut L. J. PRATT.
2. OBJECT: To contact suspected enemy MG posts and destroy.
3. TIME OF DEPARTURE: 1435 hrs.
4. ACTION: Patrol moved out from Rd BLOCK, on a bearing of 135 degrees for 2,000 yds. One Carrier moved forward to TRIG 146 (area 425419) and thoroughly searched the area with glasses, but saw no movement. Another circled TRIG 146 and then moved SW for approx 1,500 yds. Observed enemy movement approx 600 yds away in area 42324182, stopped and fired on them with MMG. Enemy ran and took cover but did NOT return fire. Carriers then linked forces at point 42434214 and moved EAST to suspected MG position; 600 yds NORTH of TRIG 146 patrol stopped and cut land line running NORTH and SOUTH. They crossed track at 42554215 and were fired on by small arms and A/Tk rifles. They engaged the enemy with Vickers, Brens and grenades, whilst circling around the weapon pits. The pits contained from 4 to 8 men each and 11 grenades were hurled into these pits but it was impossible to estimate the damage done owing to the speed of the Carriers and general confusion. During the sortie one Carrier stopped and picked up two prisoners.
The defence system, which was astride the BARDIA rd, seemed to be a series of weapon pits constructed in the form of a circle for all round protection.
The patrol then moved NORTH of the BARDIA rd and proceeded WEST back to RD BLOCK. NMS between trench system SOUTH of WADI GERIULA and RD BLOCK. Fire was brought to bear on the patrol during its return.
The track running NORTH and SOUTH behind TRIG 146 has not been used recently.
Estimated enemy strength 40-50 men.
5. RETURN: The patrol returned through RD BLOCK at 1620 hrs.

..... Lieut.
Adj. BASH.

2/43 BN SIT REP.

(to 0600 hrs - 14 May 41).

Time.

ENEMY SHELLING.

----.
1945. The enemy shelled the area near abandoned AFVs, east of the rd block spasmodically. Some shelling from area about 3 degrees left of twin columns (42444245) from post Z.80. Unable to locate strike of the shells.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

0857. Three planes, apparently two bombers and a fighter (unidentified) circled over this BN area.
0216. 1 recce plane over this area.
0245. do.
0030. do.

GROUND ACTIVITY:

---. Enemy movt in groups of from about 3 men to about 15 men was observed at intervals throughout the day in the vicinity of stranded Carriers and Tks. - These groups were engaged by arty fire.
1450. Sounds of MT movt heard from wadi area near the sea - unable to locate the exact source of the sound.
1850. Two men moving in the vicinity of abandoned Carrier nearest post Z. 81 (about 1,000 yds out). Movt of 2 or 3 men slightly NORTH of this Carrier.
1900. One veh and 2-3 men observed moving near twin cols, 42444245.
1930-2115. Patrol of 1 NCO and 3 ORs moved out from post Z.83 to the nearest abandoned Carrier and recovered the body of Lieut L. J. PRATT. No enemy seen.
2235. MT movt approx 4,000 yds out on bearing of approx 140 degrees from Z. 97.
---. Members of a listening post at point 114 (area 423425) during the night 12/13 May report that conversation in ordinary tones and sounds of usual movt on the western side of WADI ZEITUN could be heard 1,000 yds and greater distances away.
---. Patrol activity - see separate report.

J. M. Wilton Lieut. for Lt col.
COMD. 2/43 BN.

2/43 BN SIT REP.

Appendix No: _____

(to 0600 hrs - 15 May 41.)

Time.

ENEMY SHELLING.

- 1225. 3 rds, vicinity of Blockhouse.
- 1525. 1 shell between R.76 and Z.78. Believed to be A A shell - fell during the air raid on TOBRUK.
- 1955. 3 rds between R.76 and Blockhouse. Could not locate source.
- 0040. A gun firing from a bearing of 53 deg. 30 mins from Trig 121, 42194250.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:

- 0745. 3 unidentified planes flew over eastern perimeter for about 10 mins.
- 1515. About 25 planes passed over and south of this area after bombing TOBRUK.
- 0520. 1 unidentified plane passed over this area.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:

- 0655. Two men moving approx 42494244.
- 1320. Some movt near left (northerly) abandoned tk - possibly some digging as earth was observed being thrown into the air.
- 1440. Same movt observed. (Our arty at rd block fired into that area and FOO of R H A reported that the shooting was accurate.)
- . One abandoned "I" tk was removed during the night.
- . On a bearing of 85 degrees from R. 75 and north of the rd there is what appears to be a plane.

OUR ACTIVITY.

- Patrol - see separate patrol report.
- 2100. About 35 shells fired into area in the vicinity of the abandoned tks.
- 0030. Navy shelled the wadi BELGASSEM. Left fwd Coy reported that shells fell in the correct area in that wadi.

R. J. Home Lieut
Adpt. for Lt col.
COMD. TINT.

16 May 41 2/43Bw

WARDIARY

Appendix No: _____

TINT SIT REP.

(to 0600 hrs 16 May 41).

Time.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

During the night from 2300 hrs onwards - much movt of heavy aircraft, in an easterly direction.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

0640. What appears to be a small tank moving into WADI BELGASSEM.
The I tk on bearing of 84 degrees from R.75 yesterday has been removed.
0735. Enemy vehicle, unidentified, moving NORTH towards BARDIA rd, approx 2,000 yds from perimeter.
0820. EAST of gun posns astride the BARDIA rd is what appears to be either a new gun posn or small tk.

OUR ACTIVITY:

- 1130-1315. Extensive shelling was carried out on the enemy positions astride the BARDIA rd and WADI BELGASSEM by the "BUSH" arty.
- Patrols - See patrol report furnished 2100 hrs on 15 May.
- Works - See Works Report.

W. J. ... Lt col.
CMD TINT.

17 May 41

TINT SIT REP
(compiled to 0600 hrs 17 May 41)

TIME

ENEMY SHELLING NIL

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

1120 Two planes over TINT area for several minutes.
1620 Unidentified plane flying EAST over TINT area
1905 4 E.A. circled over TINT HQ area and area to South of
 that HQ. Engaged by S.A. fire.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

1950 2 men on mound 42484247 for a few minutes only.

OUR ACTIVITY

Preparations made to move into the AIRENTE sector
but now postponed at 1400 hrs.

J. H. Wilton Lieut
for Lt Col.,
Comd TINT.

TINT SITUATION REPORT.

18 MAY 41

(To 0600 hrs, 18 May 41.)

Time.

ENEMY SHELLING.

1030 - 1057 Five shells 200 - 300 yds west of Blockhouse.
(gun not pin pointed, but somewhere SOUTH of BARDIA
rd. Shells sounded to be heavier calibre than usual)

1140 One shell 50 yds east of Blockhouse.
(Gun north of BARDIA rd).

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

0820 Unidentified plane flew west to eastern perimeter
and then south along perimeter

1605 About 30 planes flew over and SOUTH of this area
after raid on TOBRUK following air raids

1618 Explosions, large and small (by sound) from
direction of TOBRUK following air raid.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

0635 6 men moving area 42494244

1930 - 2030 Three men on mound at approx 42484247.
Men were still there when light failed.

GENERAL.

2200 Lights seen South of BARDIA rd and west of
Blockhouse. Investigated and Pl comd in charge
of party investigated formed definite opinion that
all lights seen were on Western perimeter.

for Stewart Lt
Lieut Col.
Comd TINT

19 May, 41

TINT SIT. REPORT
to 0600 hrs. on 19 May, 41

Ground Activity

- 0610-0800 3/4 men on mound (ruin) 42484247. Bad visibility prevented further observation.
- 1900-2030 3/4 men on mound 42484247 still there when light failed.
- 2010 About 2 miles out veh. after depositing approx 20 men at BARDIA RD. moved North into dead ground.
- 2017 Another veh moved along same track
- 2025 Bearing 85 deg - 100 deg from Trig X2 121 (42194250) MT (1 veh) moved South at approx 30 mph moved as if on track- not much dust. (Possibly along track East of Wadi GERIULA)

General

- 2245 White light reported flashing from approx 41744294 and answered by another light estimated at 42394275. Reported by Coyre Bn.
- 2240 Observed from TINT HQ white light flashing West of BLOCK HOUSE. Light flashed 2 dashes and was answered at intervals of 3 mins by one dot by a very distant light outside perimeter to South East.

J. H. Wilton Lt. Col.
f Lt. Col.
Comd. TINT.

2/43 An War Diary
Appendix No.

TINT,
20 May 41.

TINT SIT REP

(to 0600 hrs on 20 May 41.)

Time

ENEMY SHELLING

1125 4 shells West of Blockhouse and 1000 yds South of BARDIA rd.
1510 6 enemy shells fell in vicinity of Z 83.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

0755 Recce plane flew West to perimeter, North to coast and turned and flew South and West around perimeter.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

0600-0800 (approx) 3 men at mound 42484247.
These men were not observed at the usual time this afternoon.
1115 Sounds of bombs or shelling from along the BARDIA rd. Unable to locate source.
Several bursts of MG. fire.
No reports of the fire being directed at any of out posts.
Sound of an aeroplane heard at this time.

OUR ACTIVITY

Patrolling - see patrol reports.
R.H.A. shelled area 42704210 throughout the night.
"Bush" arty shelled the area heads of wadis WEDDAN and BELGASSEM.
Abandoned Carrier South of BARDIA rd burned fiercely 1945-2130.

J. H. Wilton Lieut
for Lt Col.,
Comd TINT.

PATROL PATROLS.

2/43 Bn Wardiary
Appendix No: 12

Report of Fighting Patrol 1-2 May 41

1. STRENGTH. 3 Officers 53 G.Rs.
2. OBJECT. To search for enemy posts previously located between BARDIA Rd. and WADI WEDDAN, or any other enemy in this vicinity, and destroy.
3. LEAVING. The patrol left R77 with a recon party at 2200 hrs and main body at 2300 hrs.
4. ACTION. The patrol moved on bearing 113 degrees for 1800 yds then due North 2400 yds then on bearing 222 degrees to Post 283
Numerous signs of recent occupation in the various areas reported to have been occupied by enemy. Chiefly wheel marks and constructed sangers.
At 2400 hrs sound of motor cyclist moving in approx direction SSE from high ground East of WADI BELGASSEM.
One enemy gun noticed firing from area to SE at a great distance
Flash seen but no sound heard.
Another enemy gun from vicinity of WADIGERIULA fired on two occasions during the period of the patrol.
The area 42364230-42444229-42444244-42364244 was thoroughly combed by parties as visibility was limited to about 30 yds but no sign of enemy personnel was discovered and apart from the guns and motor cyclist, no other sounds were observed.
The enemy was definitely NOT in occupation of the posts reported occupied on night 30 Apr-1 May or in their vicinity.
5. RETURN. The patrol returned through 283 at 0435 Hrs.

J. Wilson
Lieut.
I.O. 2/43 BN.

2/43 Bn.
3 May 41.

BASH PATROL REPORT.

(for 24 hrs ended 0600 3 May 41.)

2/43 Bn War Diary
Appendix No

DAYLIGHT PATROLS.

1. Nature: 1 L/Cpl and 3 ORs left ASCO front.
2. Departure: The patrol departed at 1615.
3. Object: To search the ground between WADIS ZEITUN and 95 (west of the WADI WEDDAN)
4. The patrol moved to point 103, area 423425 and found no signs of the enemy. The patrol then moved to point 95 in area 424425, saw no signs of the enemy and then moved to 42424253 and saw 1 man east of the WADI WEDDAN and considers there were more men there. 1 gun fired from the road end of wadi WEDDAN. The patrol then moved to point 116 in area 423425, was fired on once by a rifle shot and retired ~~xxxxxx~~ towards the Coast and then returned. At 42424250, the patrol saw traces of what was possibly an MG being dragged east and west. There were four separate sets of tracks. The patrol also found some silken articles, possibly flares, and is sending them in.
5. Return: The patrol reported in at 2030.
6. Nature: Fighting Patrol 3 OFFrs 49 ORs
7. Departure: Left R77 at 0040 hrs
8. Object: To search area west of Wadi WEDDAN and wadi BELGASSEM for enemy, and if found to attack him and bring in prisoners and material.
9. Moved on bearing 113 until 0220 about 2900 yds. Eight rifle shots and one burst MMG heard firing from position south of BARDIA Rd. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The n proceeded due North to BARDIA Rd. Along Road West 700 yds then North 900 yds, then on bearing 332 degrees for 1500 yds. Saw during this time well worn and new tracks leading to Wadi BELGASSEM from South and later new tracks leading from Wadi WEDDAN and from there to East branch of Wadi VINCENZA. Dogs heard barking and faint sounds of running MT engines well down Wadi WEDDAN. Sound of motor cycle moving from Wadi GERIULA to and from South. Then moved on bearing 213 degrees which brought patrol opp. Z89.
It seems clear that no enemy is occupied on the West side of Wadi WEDDAN as far North as 4253 and no sign of enemy observed on West side of wadi BELGASSEM as far North as 4239.
10. Return: Patrol returned through Z83 at 0540 hrs.
11. A recce patrol of 8 ORs left Z77 at 2335 and moved along first "leg" of fighting patrol at about 2600 yds turned North and having gone about 350, at 0140 fired on by 3 single shots and then burst of MG, 2 single shots and a second burst of MG. Range about 80 yds. No traces. Then observed 40-60 enemy moving from sangar in front moving North towards BARDIA Rd. This was probably a working party. Patrol waited until 0230 for fighting patrol to come up but did not observe or hear it. Evidently passed outside range of vision- about this time 80-100 yds. About 0245 observed further movement in vicinity of Sangar moving North. Having obviously missed the fighting patrol moved back towards the perimeter arriving at R77 at 0410

RJA Lieut.
Adjt BASH.

BASH PATROL REPORT.DAYLIGHT PATROLS.

1. Nature: Platoon patrols by pls of left fwd Coy, patrols moving out from pl HQ.
2. Departure: Departures were from posts Z.97, Z.93 and Z.80 at 1430 hrs.
3. Object: To search the area fwd of each pl locality for enemy or signs of the enemy.
4. Action: No. 1 patrol searched area 423426 but saw nothing and heard nothing.

No. 2 patrol moved to point 103 in area 423425, moved south to line 425 and returned along that grid line approx. This patrol saw no enemy and heard no enemy, but saw some posts which it judged to be MG posts and these posts contained nothing.

No. 3 patrol moved out from Z. 80 for about 2,000 yds on a bearing of approx 50 degrees. Saw no enemy. Heard a motor cycle and a motor truck. By sound, judged these to be in wadi WEDDAN. Also saw a pole with a knob on it being raised and lowered. Opinion of patrol - a periscope. This was on a bearing of approx 50 degrees from Z. 80, and seemed to be in wadi WEDDAN.

NIGHT PATROLS.

5. Strength: 1 NCO and 2 ORs.
6. Object: To patrol area north of BARDIA rd and report on any enemy movement.
7. Departure: The patrol moved out from post Z.83 , at 0100 hrs.
8. Action: The patrol moved out NE for approx 850 yds from wire, stopped, and listened every 100 yds. 1 veh and 1 m/c heard at approx 0200 from the direction of wadi BELGASSEM. From this point the patrol swung to the left and proceeded another 250 yds. One member began to cough at 0300 so the patrol stopped and listened. At 0330 a yellow rocket was fired from, it is thought, the wadi BELGASSEM, presumably a signal rocket. As patrol commenced to return at 0345, it heard a man shout from the direction of BARDIA rd some distance away. About 0400 one shot was heard from the same source. No other sign of the enemy was seen or heard.
9. Return: The patrol returned through post Z.83 at 0440.
10. Strength: 1 NCO and 2 ORs.
11. Object: To patrol the front in the area south of BARDIA rd and report any sign of enemy movements.
12. Departure: 0200 hrs.
13. Action: The patrol moved out from post R.75 for a distance of 1500 yds on a bearing of $114\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. They stopped and listened for any sign of enemy each 100 yds. At approx 0315 one rifle shot was heard slightly right of line of advance, south of BARDIA rd. At 0330, the patrol proceeded towards the BARDIA rd and reached a position 200 yds north of the track, at 0345. Patrol then moved back towards post R.75. No further sign of the enemy was seen or heard. Visibility after moon set was approximately 150 yds.
14. Return. The patrol returned through R.75 at 0500 hrs.

J. M. Wilson Lieut.
IO BASH.

6 May 41.

BASH PATROL REPORT.

(for 24 hrs ended 0600 6 May 41).

2/43bn War Diary

appendix No

DAYLIGHT PATROLS.

1. Nature: Recce patrol from Z. 81 of 3 ORs.
2. Object: To search ground immediately to front of that post for signs of enemy occupation.
3. Departure: Moved out from Z. 81.
4. Action: The patrol moved out 300 yards and found some weapon pits, not newly established, and saw some MT tracks, not old. Found some signal wire, clean of dust, and Shell petrol, which had apparently been there for some time. The petrol tins were bayoneted and petrol ran away. Could not tell if any fresh occupation.
5. Return: The patrol returned to Z. 81 at 1015 hrs.

NIGHT PATROLS.

6. Strength: The Fighting Patrol consisted of 1 Offr and 24 ORs.
7. Departure: The patrol left R.75 at 0235 hrs.
8. Action: The patrol moved on bearing 114½ degrees for 2,800 yds. Reached wrecked plane 0330 hrs. Then moved on bearing 25 degrees for 1250 yds, reached dirt track at 0415 hrs and proceeded to search the area. No trace of the enemy was found. During this time gun flashes were noticed, coming from vicinity of WADI WEDDAN, and more gun flashes coming from a position about 3,000 yds to ESE on REBE front. Patrol took up position to observe enemy post believed to exist south of BARDIA rd. Strong headwind made listening difficult, vixibility also limited to about 15 yds. No sign of enemy movement was observed, and there was no sign of recent occupation in the area.
9. Return: Patrol began return journey at 0515 to and came in through R. 75 at 0600 hrs.

A. L. Lane..... Lieut.
Adjt BASH.

War Diary

5 May 41.

BASH SIT REP.

(to 0600 on 5 May 41).

2/43Bn War Diary
Appendix No

Time.

ENEMY SHELLING.

1130. Lt shelling of area near Z.80 with mortar.
1215. Two shells 300 yds south of Trig 121 area 421425.
1300. 4 mortar bombs near Z. 80.
1450-1520. 13 rds area approx 1,000 yds in rear of blockhouse
(suspected registration fire).
1700. 2 rds rear of blockhouse, 500 yds.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

1345. 1 plane circled over area between wadi ZEITUN and to west thereof at least 3 miles.
1530. Approx 2 miles approx due north of mouth of WADI ZEITUN 1 plane dropped what appeared to be a mine on a parachute.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

0640. 2 men moved to a point 103 degrees from trig 121, area 421425 - apparently on east side of wadi WEDDAN.
---. Mortar bombs - reported in shelling report.
~~xxxxx~~
0535. 3 rockets at 7 min intervals from south of BARDIA rd towards right fwd pl of right coy.
0620 (5 May 41). Post Z.80 fired on by a MG - post unable to locate distance or direction of the MG.
0400. 5 rockets seen. All rockets fired in direction of sea.
0430. 1 m/c and 1 MT heard.

OUR ACTIVITY.

1900. 80 shells fired into area around head of WADI BELGASSEM. Patrol activity - see separate report. Daylight patrols reported the area between the wadis ZEITUN and WEDDAN clear and reported very little activity anywhere.

...*A. Wilson* Lieut.
IO. BASH.

6 May 41.

2/43Bn War Diary

Appendix No _____

BASH SIT REP.

(to 0600 hrs on 6 May 41).

Time.

ENEMY SHELLING.

0755. 4 shells on blockhouse.
0825. 4 shells on blockhouse.
0900. 3 shells on wadi ZEITUN near Z.80-Z.89.
2000. Light shelling of BARDIA rd near blockhouse.
2058. Light shelling of BASH HQ area (2 rds).
2150. Light shelling near blockhouse.
2300-0100. Consistent shelling of area fwd of WADI DELIA, moving from north of BASH HQ to blockhouse.
0150-0350. Salvos of 12 at hourly intervals rear of left fwd Coy.
0430. 4 shells, vicinity of blockhouse.
0500. 8 shells rear of left fwd Coy.
0530. 8 shells vicinity of blockhouse.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

Nil. (Planes were heard over BASH HQ area about 2315, but they were not seen and not identified - opinion, from sound - enemy).

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

0600 (about). Approx 10 men seen 1600 yds out, near BARDIA rd - fired on.
0610. Post Z.880 fired on by MG. Two short bursts.
0700. About 10 men in line parallel with wadi ZEITUN, and apparently near and west of wadi ~~ZEITUN~~ WEDDAN. Bearings 104 to 105 degrees from trig 121, area 421424. (Similar movement observed for last 3 days).
0725. 4 men on eastern side of wadi WEDDAN, opposite above posn.
1425. Activity about 4,000 yds out 97 degrees from Z.97 and 3,400 yds out bearing 100 degrees from same post.
1845. Stick with knob on it (suspected periscope) seen on bearing of 83 degrees from post Z. 80. Unable to estimate distance (may be near point 110 area 424424)
1715. About 40 rds fired to area near point 91, area 425426.
1900. About 80 rds fired by our arty into wadi BELGASSEM area and SIDE BUAMUD area.
0500. 700 rds fired from our arty (75, 100, 149 mm - total 9 guns) into WADI BELGASSEM and head of WADI GERIULA. Enemy replied by shelling BLOCKHOUSE and also firing at our gun flashes without inflicting any damage.

..... *R. J. Kane* Lieut.
Adj. BASH.

7 May 41.

Appendix to: _____

BASH SIT REP.Time.Enemy shelling.

2155. Gun flashes from approx head of wadi GERIULA, no reports and no shells heard.

Enemy Air activity.

30 Apr. Two derelict ITALIAN guns were erected fwd of CONROY FORCE area. Enemy recce plane flew over while tps thus engaged. The next day the dummy gun posn was dive bombed.

2136. Plane (believed enemy) over this area.

Enemy ground activity.

0710. About 10 men moving north to south immediately this side of wadi WEDDAN. They disappeared in approx 2 mins.

2135. Three flares at $1\frac{1}{2}$ min intervals from the vicinity of the fire (wadi GERIULA), followed by two flares or flashes.

General.

1900. Our guns fired about 40 rds into wadi BELGASSEM area.

2045. Supporting arty shelled point 117, area 426423.

2135. Large fire observed in this area. Sounds of explosions and shouting. (Shouting heard at post Z. 81 and may have come from closer than the fire).
Following bearings on the fire were reported - 134 from Z.93; 141 from Z.97; 109 from Z.80; 90 from R.76.

2155. Gun flashes reported as seen in the same area - no sound of guns or shells heard.

A sand storm which lasted the greater part of the day reduced visibility to less than 200 yds at times.

W. Victor
Lieut.
IO BASH.

2/43Bn "War Diary"

8 May 41.

Appendix No: _____

BASH SIT REP.

(to 0600 hrs on 8 May 41).

Time.

Enemy shelling.

1050. 2 ships were shelled by a gun apparently in wadi WEDDAN.
1855. Two guns firing. Bearings 120 and 124 from Z. 97 - other posts were unable to spot the gun smoke puffs - estimated that guns about same distance out as point 91, area 425426.

Enemy Air Activity:

1625. 8 enemy planes over BASH area.
0200. Unidentified plane flew in from sea, and around perimeter and then towards TOBRUK.

Enemy Ground Activity:

1005-1015. About 10 mortar bombs fell in wadi ZEITUN.
1925. One vehicle seen limit of vision, on BARDIA rd.
2010. One man observed near twin columns, m242m244.
2000. One group of 3 vehs and 1 odd veh seen half right. One OP suspected slightly south of BARDIA rd (approx 42484224).
0230. Sounds of m/c from wadi area.
0300. Sounds of m/c from wadi area.
0400-0500. Sounds of MT reported between BARDIA rd and wadi area.
0430. White Very light from ruins 600 yds in front of listening post at point 114 opposite Z. 91.

Our Activity:

1900. About 60 shells fired into wadi GERIULA area.

...*J. Wilton*... Lieut.
IO BASH.

File

9 May 41.

2/43 Bn War Diary.

appendix no: _____

BASH SIT. REP.

(to 0600 hrs on 9 May 41.)

Time

Enemy Shelling

0010 2 rds, behind left fwd Coy
0015 2 rds "
0050 10 rds vicinity of blockhouse.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy Ground Activity

0710 Post R 75 reports heavy blasting about 3000x immediate front and more to right.
1424 One M.T. seen 2000 yds out along BARDIA rd. Appears now to be going away.
1610 Noise heard of someone rolling around barrels, or of empty barrels being moved in truck 1400. A truck seen well out - fired on by gun at road block.
2330 6 Rifle shots (not located accurately).

Our Activity

Patrol - see Patrol Report
Arty - Our "BUSH" arty fired approx 150 shells in vicinity of Wadi GERIULA.
Works in progress - see works report.

Castewart Lieut.,
I.O. BASH.

10 May 41.

2/43 Bn WAR DIARY.

BASH SIT REP.

Appendix No: _____

Time.

ENEMY SHELLING.

1140. 15 rds 200 yds WEST of Blockhouse (area 421423).
0210. 5 rds onto BARDIA rd from gun on bearing of 109
degrees from Z.80.
0450. 10 rds from gun on same bearing on road block
(shelling commenced immediately sappers started to
move bridge at road block).
0500. 3 rds near blockhouse from gun on same bearing.
3 rds from gun on bearing of approx 170 degrees
from Z.80.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:

1345. Biplane came in over Z.81, R.76 and R. 72 and back
over enemy lines.
1905. Two planes, one high and one low, flew west
over area.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

0933. Man near twin columns, 42424245, moved SOUTH 150
yds and joined by another. Both went to ground.
0948. 6 men moved from this point EAST into WADI WEDDAN.
0943. 1 man moved to point about 100 yds NORTH of twin
columns and left at the double after a short
interval. Moved NE into WADI WEDDAN.
0125. Some vehicular movement reported by REBE as being
possibly on or near BARDIA rd.
0230. Large Alsatian dog seen in BASH HQ area. (Dogs
have been previously reported as barking from the
direction of WADI BELGASSEM and on one previous
occasion. About 3 May another one was seen in this
area. These dogs give short barks at intervals
and they may be used with patrols of perhaps single
men to bark when our posts are sighted or smelt,
in order that the patrol can plot the defensive
system. One dog which was shot at near post Z.93
jumped the wire and moved to enemy territory).

OUR ACTIVITY.

1435-1620. Carrier patrol - report already furnished.
1127. House, area 422424, demolished.
1900. 25 rds fired into area astride BARDIA rd at
approx 42604220.
0600 One patrol still to return from vicinity of
twin columns (area 42424245).

J. Wilson Lieut.
I.O. Adj. BASH.

11 May 41.

BASH SIT REP.

Time.

ENEMY SHELLING.

0715. Shelling of patrol returning to Z. 81.
2015. A few rds fired from a gun on a bearing of 110
degrees from Z. 80.
0355. 2 rds near Z. 93.
0415. 2 rds near Z.93.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:

1700. 1 plane over rd block, turned SOUTH and flew
around perimeter.
1745. 1 plane over BASH area.
0400. 1 plane over area, flying WEST.
0408. 1 plane over area, flying EAST.
0425. 1 plane over area, flying EAST.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:

0600 - 0700. Movement around sangers immediately EAST of head
of WADI WEDDAN (see patrol report of 10 May 41).
0745. 4 enemy tks move along perimeter near R. 84 -
engaged by arty when about 3,000 yds out and they
moved away to the SOUTH.
0925. 9 men move about in area east of head of WADI WEDDAN.
2010. Two bursts of MG fire over OP, point 121, area
42194250.
0135 - 0140. Sound of m/c and 2/3 MT from wadi area.
0239. Sound of MT from wadi area.
0310 - 0320. Sound of engine being revved from wadi area.

OWN ACTIVITY:

Patrolling - see patrol report.
About 40 shells were fired into area where Carriers contacted a
working party during the afternoon.
1 large white dog was shot crossing the WADI ZEITUN near post
Z. 87 at about 0900. Dog was inspected but was carrying nothing.
Dog was crossing the wadi at this time, accompanied by another of
the same type - no sign of any man with them. They were moving
aimlessly at the time.
Works - as per works report.

J. Wilton Lieut for Lt col.
COMD. BASH.

12 May 41.

2/43Bn was Diary
Appendix No.

TINT SIT REP.

(to 0600 hrs - 12 May 41)

Time:

ENEMY SHELLING:

Nil.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY:

1914. Recce plane low over TINT HQ area. Engaged by SA fire.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY:

2000. DIGS reports that 6 men and 1 veh approx 3 miles out on bearing of 130 degrees from R. 69.

OUR ACTIVITY:

Patrols - see patrol report.
Work at posts; observation along front.

GENERAL:

Some straight flying pigeons (as opposed to birds circling) have been observed in this area - flying west.

La Seynars Lt
Lt col.
FOR. COMD. TINT.

TINT SIT REP.

Time.

ENEMY SHELLING.

0910. 3 shells fell to WEST of Blockhouse.
0435. 4 rds on or near Rd, vicinity of Blockhouse, bearings 63 degrees from R.75, 96 degrees from Trig 121, 42194250.
0452. 4 rds on or near Rd, vicinity of Blockhouse, from bearing of approx 118 degrees from R. 75.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

1500. RAAd over TOBRUK. One plane appeared to fall near El ADEM rd, on bearing of approx 240 degrees from Trig 121, 42194250.

GROUND ACTIVITY.

2005. Movement of 1 or 2 men, 4,000 yds out on bearing of 149 degrees from R. 75.
2120. Sounds of MT approx same area. Apparently moving SOUTH.
2130. Our arty commenced shelling (for 30 mins) of head ~~xxxx~~ of WADI GERIULA.
2140. Movement of MT heard 4,000 - 5,000 yds east of post Z. 97 and near Coast.
0500-0510. Bursts of MG fire from near BARDIA rd, on bearing 67 degrees from R. 75. Some rifle fire from same place. Tracer amm NOT being used.
0527. Some MG bursts from posns near BARDIA rd (area 425421).
0550. Fire of MGs and A/Tk weapons in area near BARDIA rd - much MG and rifle fire.

(Activity after 0550 hrs is covered by "Report of Operation of 13 May 41).)

J. Wilson Lt col.
Comd. TINT.

Job No	Job	Map Location	Work Carried Out	% complete to date	Unit carrying out wk.	Remarks
Z1a1	Section Post	42704239	Strengthening A/Pesn	87	ASCO	
Z84	" "	42374274	" "	87	"	
1	lash Area	42184262	Cameouflage Bn H.Q. and dummy pesns.	87	SUVA	Work in BHQ defensive area.
2a	lero Area Rt lwd.	42154245	W.Ps, crawl trenches and cameouflage.	55	NERO	Nero engaged in patrol activities in previous 24 hrs less work done.
2b	" " Left lwd.	42134237	Crawl Trenches	73	"	
2c	" " Res Post	42104245	Dummy pesns, Placing of dummy weapons etc.	77	"	

John Kelly
Lt Col.,
Comd BASH.

BASH.
2 May 41.

2/43 Bn Wadi Diary

Appendix No: 21

BASH SIT REP.

(to 0600 hrs 2 May 41).

Time:

ENEMY SHELLING.

0710. Shells falling around Z. 78 and behind and to north of that post - about 16 rds.
1028. 16 rds 600 yds west of blockhouse.
1450-2000. About 16-20 rds per half hour fall north of BARDIA rd between grids 422 and 423 east. Majority of shells fall along a line about 400 yds west of wadi Zeuitun. Occasional bursts of about 16 rds fall in area 41854240.
0200. Light shelling of above area.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

1005. Five enemy planes over our area.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

0805. About 20 men moving about 1000 yds fwd of 42274240 on bearing of approx 65 degrees.
0835. Same men crawling fwd or moving in short bounds.
0850. Number new estimated at approx 40. They move about 4 at a time in small bounds. Engaged by SA fire, they went to earth about 800 yds out. Enemy used an automatic weapon.
1027. Three prisoners captured near Z.101.
1200. Movement of about 3 men opposite Z.93.
1500. Z 97 under light MG fire.
1320. Post Z 89 reports silencing of two MG by arty fire.
1400. Dust cloud in wadi area, bearing 153½ degrees from 42284258.
1410. 13 men clad in Italian uniforms and carrying rifles 1400 yds out, bearing 101 degrees from a point 600 yds south of ~~xxxxx~~ Z. 93 - moving towards coast in bounds which gradually lengthened.
1735. About 4-5 men move back over crest from opposite Z.80. 4-5 men move fwd to left of there, carrying a pole and a white object. When fired on they put up the pole, pole knocked down (or thrown down) when gp fired on. Men went to earth.
(Later enquiries lead to belief that white object may have been white cloth with red cross and that men were stretcher bearers).
1858. 7-8 enemy establishing post 1100 yds out on bearing of 78 degrees from Z.80.
2010. Enemy veh moving south from wadi WEDDAN.
2025. Some arty fire from our guns at rd block and enemy MG fired on rd block and along BARDIA rd. Following gun flashes were observed from point 121 at 42194250:-
2005. 174 degrees 15 mins.
2017. 289 degrees.
2040. 103 degrees.
0630 (to-day). Post Z. 80 subjected to M.G. fire, from about 1000 yds out.

OUR ACTIVITY.

Patrolling - see patrol report.
1930 - 30 shells into wadi WEDDAN.
Supporting arty shelled area between wadis ZEITUN and WEDDAN.
Observation was maintained on the whole front and enemy gps engaged by SA and mortar fire at appropriate ranges.

2/43 4240-

J. Wilton Lieut
I.O. BASH.

2/43 Bn War Diary

BASH
3 May 41

BASH SITUATION REPORT

Appendix 10

to 0600 hrs 3 May 41

TIME

ENEMY SHELLING

0645 4 rounds near post Z81

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

1315 Eleven enemy planes over our area.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

0630 MG fire directed at post Z80 at range approx 1000 yds.
0645 MG firing long bursts which are falling on Z81 and Rd Block. Sounds like Bren or Breda. Coming from North of and close to road well out.
0700 Single enemy seen out 1100 yds on bearing of 73 degrees from Z80. Seemed to move into a post where enemy movement possibly digging in was seen yesterday.
0800 About 20 enemy moving around old mound or ruin in area approx 42434244.
0915 5 lorry loads inf seen debussing squares 427420, 427421 slight movement 422418.
2030 Several bursts from MG and LMG from position North of BARDIA Rd. approx 3000 yds out.
2230 Can hear sounds M/C movement in enemy lines similar to that heard on night of large MT movement, also MT can now be heard.
2335 Sounds of MT disappeared 30 Mins ago sound of M/C was heard.
0112 Patrol which left R69 reports 400 paces right of 69 and 1000 yds out 2 of patrol saw movement of 3 men moving to left and parallel with wire in direction of R71

OUR ACTIVITY

Patrols-- see patrol report.

Works are nearing completion in the preparation of dummy positions.

B. J. Hame Lieut.
adjet BASH

2/43rd Warr diary
War Diary

BASH.
4 May 41.

BASH SIT REP.

(to 0600 hrs 4 May 41).

Appendix No.

Time.

ENEMY SHELLING.

0810. Eight rds vicinity south of Blockhouse.
0910-0915. 12 rds, same target.
2145-2205. 36 rds south of BARDIA rd, vicinity blockhouse.
10 rds vicinity Z.91-Z.93.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

Nil.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

0600-0630. Three bursts of MG fire directed at post Z.80. Position of gun north of BARDIA rd.
0640-0655. ~~MAXXXX~~ M/C heard coming from direction of Wadis.
1100. 3" mortar fire. 2 rds vicinity Z 80, 3 rds Z.89.
1825. MG fired a few bursts on post Z.81.

OUR ACTIVITY.

0900-1230. A change over of positions was effected by C and D Coys. C Coy was previously in reserve and D Coy right forward Coy.
1915-1950. 80 shells fired by our 100 mm guns into the vicinity of the WADI BELGASSEM. One 5.9 gun sited south of blockhouse for future firing. Three 47 mm A/Tk guns withdrawn from posts R.81, R.79 and R. 75 and forwarded to A/Tk Coy.
1825. Our 75 mm gun sited at post Z.81 returned fire of enemy MG north of BARDIA rd.

..... Lieut.
IO. BASH.

PRO-FORMA

2/43 In War Diary
App. No. 15

NO

RECEIPT FOR POW

Received the body of

NAME MAGNI CARLO.

NUMBER 7667

RANK PTE.

UNIT. 1st PL 1st COY 7
BERSA. REGT

SIGNATURE

Shaw
Lieut

PRO FORMA

Nº 15

RECEIPT FOR POW

Received the body of

NAME MOLINARI GIOVANNI

NUMBER 6309 (93) C

RANK PTE.

UNIT. 1st PL. 1st COY 7
BERSA. REGT.

SIGNATURE [Signature]
Went

SECRET

51/232
2/430m War Diary
appendix No: 16

SITUATION REPORTS - 27 March - 31 March, 1941.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF - TO WHOM ADDRESSED.

From :- CYRCOM. 0 867. 27th.

"Situation Report 39 (.) 26th March (.) Tactical recce. 20 to 30 M.T. AGHEILA area (.) NMS East or West AGHEILA or area GIOFER (.) 27th March tactical recce. 100 M.T. and huts being erected (X) 9669 (.) 6 M.T. AGHEILA (.) 20 armd cars MAATEN GIOFER (.) HENSCHER recce.ed WADI FAREGH to MAATEN TEGZELT and bombed Kings Dragoon Guards patrol (.) 27th March strategical recce. poor visibility (.) HSUS to SIRTE observation impossible (.) 1.T. SULTAN 31 NOFILIA 61 LANUF 200 dispersed (.) Enemy aircraft MISURATA 25 large 15 small (.) All informed."

From :- GYRCOM. 0 887. 28th.

"Situation report (.) 27th March (.) 1 attack by enemy aircraft on troops in forward area lorries damaged (.) 28th March (.) Slight enemy patrol activity AGHEILA area (.) 4 air attacks on troops forward area 1 casualty wounded (.) All informed."

From :- CYRCOM. 0 926. 29th.

"Situation Report (.) 27th and 28th enemy aircraft attacked administrative units SX 0653 repeat 0653 (.) 2 wounded 5 vehicles damaged 29th Kings Dragoon Guards patrol engaged with Breda Gun by 2 8 wheel armd cars (.) Casualties 1 armd car lost 4 wounded 1 missing (.) 2 attacks by enemy aircraft on troops in forward area no casualties reported (.) 5 bombs dropped ER-REHMA area on Australian troops (.) No casualties (.) All informed."

From :- Cyrcom. 0 949. 31st.

"Situation report 43 (.) 29th March Kings Dragoon Guards attacked by enemy aircraft 2 wounded (.) 30th March 3 attacks by enemy aircraft on Kings Dragoon Guards (.) March 31st (.) 0800 hrs tactical recce. reported 200 A.F.Vs. Q. East XB 3067 (.) 0900 hrs forward troops reported small enemy detachment 28 kilos East AGHEILA (.) 1055 hrs. tactical recce. reported A.F. Vs. to be mixed tanks and armoured cars with SWASTIKA markings. (.) 1058 hours outpost cemetery hill (X84981) reported driven in by tanks artillery (.) 1230 hours heavy enemy dive bombing on cemetery hill area (.) 1415 (preparation)? enemy withdrawal reported but 1430 hours tactical recce reported continous column AFVs MT from MERSA BREGA to west AGHEILA (.) 1555 hrs enemy forward troops appeared to be stationary MERSA BREGA Area (.) 1430 to 1550 hrs. strategical recce. reported MT AGHEILA BIR CAHELA and RAS LANUF (.) 800 MT dispersed in Groups between RAS LANUF and RAS AALI (.) 370 MT between RAS EL AALI and AGHEILA (.) 50 MT AGHEILA (.) 50 large covered MT moving South from AGHEILA (.) 40 MT dispersed MAATEN GIOFER (.) 13 large and 10 small enemy aircraft MARBLE ARCH (.) Tactical recce. 1730 hrs reported 200 AFVs MERSA BREGA area apparently stationary (.) MERSA BREGA to west about 300 MT moving east (.) No details yet ground troops all informed."



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Receipt for **SECRET** Documents.

Issued to 2/43 Bn. Date 3 Apr 41 1941

I hereby acknowledge receipt of Copy No. of Secret Document

S1/232

(Signed) *Henry Noel*

(Appointment) 2/43 Bn

Date 3 apr 41

NOTES.

1. THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT MUST NOT BE WRITTEN ON THIS FORM.
2. The officer responsible for the safe custody of the document will sign the receipt.
3. THE RECIPIENT OF THE SECRET DOCUMENT MENTIONED ABOVE WILL ACCOUNT FOR IT ANNUALLY ON THE RETURN OF SECRET DOCUMENTS. (STRIKE OUT THIS NOTE IF NOT APPLICABLE.)
4. This Document supersedes, copies of which will be destroyed by fire and a certificate of destruction rendered to the address shown below.

(To be completed and original returned immediately in a single unregistered envelope).

To H.Q. 24 Aust. Inf. Bde.

(Head-quarters Issuing Document.)

2/43 Bn 4/11/77

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde
20 Apr 41

Was Deady

Appendix No: 17

2/43 Bn
CONROY FORCE
A Coy - A A S C
B Coy - A A S C

Administration - 2/43 Bn and CONROY FORCE

Owing to the new organisation under which 2/43 Bn and the two AASC Coys will operate, the following instructions are given.

2/43 Bn will retain all their vehicles with the exception of 1 car, 1 lton Van, 2 30 wwt Lorries and 2 Carriers which will be transferred to CONROY FORCE. However for the purpose of Returns required by Division, these vehicles will remain on 2/43 Bn Strength.

Vehicles held by the respective AASC Coys will remain with these Coys except that the Water Truck of AASC will remain with ~~the~~ CONROY FORCE.

Weapons held by 2/43 Bn, will be recorded under two headings for the purpose of Bde Returns only, showing those with 2/43 Bn and those with CONROY FORCE. AASC will be recorded by Coys and will not be included in these figures. This information will be supplied to Bde by 1000 hours, 22 Apr 41. It is considered, ^{desirable} the practicability has yet to be proved, that arm be recorded in the same manner.

2/43 Bn, for the purpose of A Returns, will function as at present. AASC Strength Returns will be forwarded by Unit HQ to reach Bde by 0700 hours daily with full particulars of casualties in order that AASC HQ may attend to the lodging of their Returns.

2/43 Bn and CONROY FORCE will ration and water the AASC Coys under their command. Rations for consumption on 23 Apr and water for consumption on 22 Apr will be drawn under these conditions.

2/43 Bn will be responsible for the replacement of the personal clothing and equipment of both Forces.

C. Deady

Capt
S C 24 Aust Inf Bde

& Unit HQ means 2/43 Bn + Conroy Force.

2/4.7 In War Diary
Appendix No. 20.

BASH

DAILY WORKS REPORT
for 24 hours ending 1800 hrs 10 May 41.

Job No	Job	Map Location	Work Carried Out	% complete to date.	Unit carrying out wk.	Remarks
R72	Section Post	42124223	Emplacing 75 mm gun	86	Tute	Acted as covering party to carriers.
R73	" "	42136218	½ compl boarding A/T ditch. Strength fire posns	83	"	No more boards necessary to camouflage rest.
R74	Pl HQ Mortars	42194227	Crawl Trench, mortar pit.	77	"	Battle position.
R75	Section Post	42184221	Fire posn, crawl trench	72	"	Carried wire for A/T ditch
R76	Coy HQ	42324233	Weapon Pits Crawl trench	82	"	
R77	Section Post	42244226	Wire in A/T ditch plus boards	69	"	
R79	" "	42284231	Wire & Bds in A/T ditch	69	"	
Z81	" Pl HQ	42334233	Timber & F.Pesn in A/T ditch, crawl trench	83	"	
Z83	"	42164240	Trip wires weapon pits camouflaged	86	"	
Z85	"	42324240	Wiring	69	"	
Z80	Section Post Pl HQ	42264247	Sangar improvement	82	ASCO	ASCO ready to construct reefs in all W.Ps.
Z87	" "	42274241	Digging in A/Pesn	77	"	
Z89	" "	42284252	Sandbagging digging	87	"	
Z91	" "	42274257	Building W.Ps.	82	"	
Z93	" "	42284259	Deepening W.Ps.	87	"	
Z95	" "	42644231	Sandbagging, digging	87	"	
Z97	" "	42334269	Strengthening A/Pesn	82	"	

MESSAGE FORM.

CALL
AND
INSTRUC-
TIONS.

IN

OUT

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

File

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO ~~REBE~~ ^{RND} BASH

FROM TIDE

Originator's Number

G.O.7

Date

9

In Reply to Number

Herewith	Sketch	Showing	results	to-day's	patrols
⊙	Please	arrange	Carrier	patrol	to
determine	strength	and	identity	enemy	in
approx	vicinity	<u>red</u>	circle	⊙	Daylight
patrol	to-morrow	10 May	⊙	Engineers	will
provide	bridge	Somewhere	near	R 71	for
progress	over	ditch	⊙	you	will

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.

SIGNED

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

System In.	Time In.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM.

**CALL
AND
INSTRUC-
TIONS.**

IN

OUT

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

TO

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

(2)

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

Contact
all
A Tk.

UNOK
Subsequent
details

direct
operations

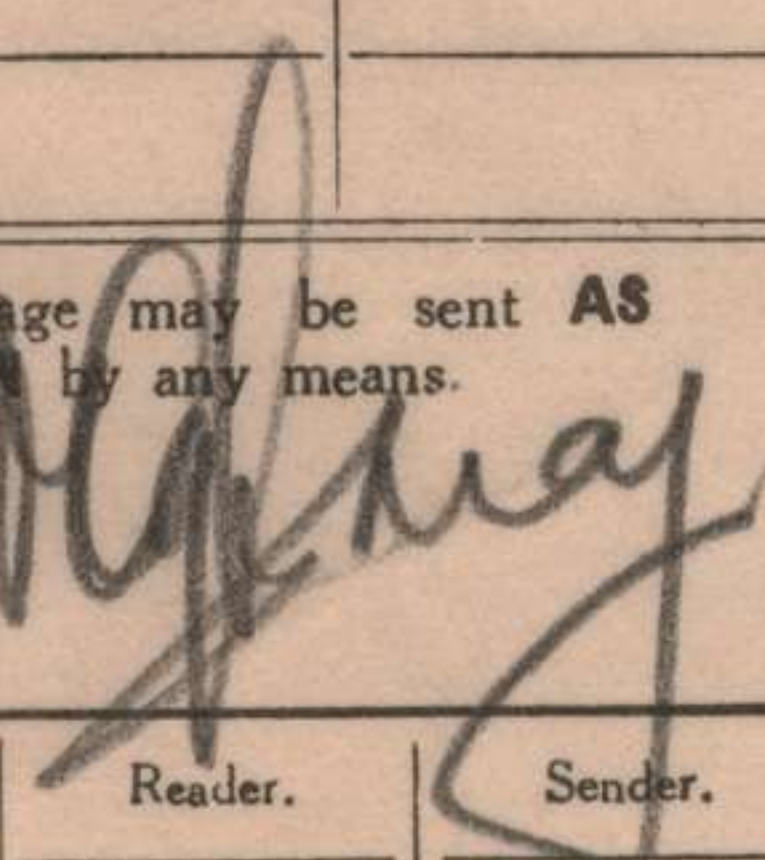
for
concerning

this
bridging

and
of

This message may be sent **AS
WRITTEN** by any means.

SIGNED



If liable to be intercepted or fall into
Enemy Hands, this message must be
sent **IN CIPHER.**

SIGNED

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

Time of Origin.

2200

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

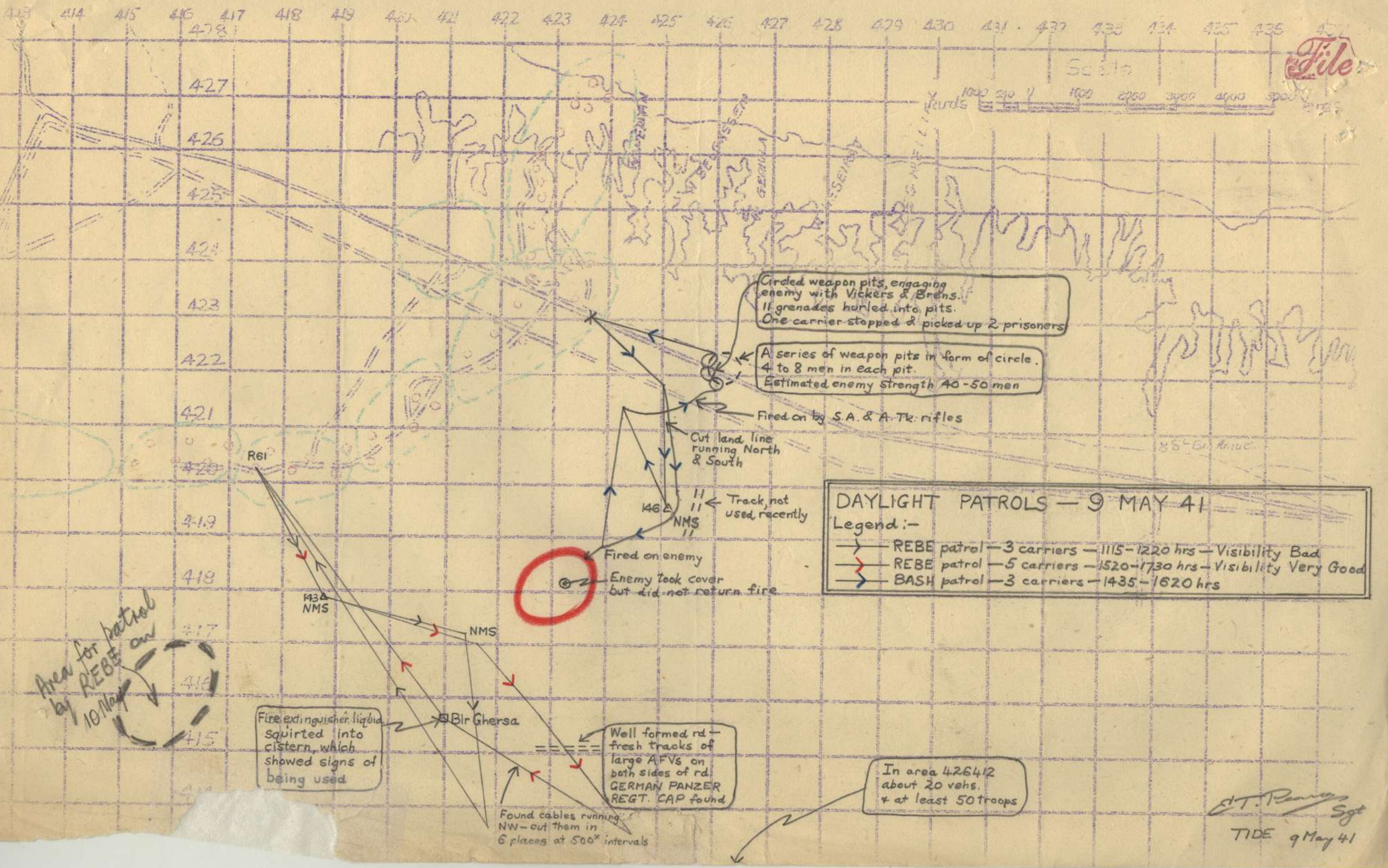
T.H.I.

System In.	Time In.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.

T.O.R.

File

Scale



Circled weapon pits, engaging enemy with Vickers & Brens. 11 grenades hurled into pits. One carrier stopped & picked up 2 prisoners

A series of weapon pits in form of circle. 4 to 8 men in each pit. Estimated enemy strength 40-50 men

Fired on by S.A. & A.Tk. rifles

Cut land line running North & South

Track, not used, recently

DAYLIGHT PATROLS - 9 MAY 41

Legend:-

- REBE patrol - 3 carriers - 1115-1220 hrs - Visibility Bad
- ↗ REBE patrol - 5 carriers - 1520-1730 hrs - Visibility Very Good
- ↘ BASH patrol - 3 carriers - 1435-1620 hrs

Fired on enemy
Enemy took cover but did not return fire

Area for patrol on 10 May

Fire extinguisher liquid squirted into cistern, which showed signs of being used

Well formed rd - fresh tracks of large AFVs on both sides of rd. GERMAN PANZER REGT. CAP found

In area 42642 about 20 vehs. & at least 50 troops

Found cables running NW - cut them in 6 places at 500' intervals

E.T. Pearcey Sgt
TIDE 9 May 41

War Diary
Appendix No.

BASH
11 May 41.

PATROL REPORT

NIGHT PATROL

STRENGTH

1 N.C.O. & 3 O.Rs.

OBJECT

To patrol our area SOUTH of BARDIA rd and report any enemy movement.

TIME OF DEPARTURE

2304 hrs.

ACTION

Patrol moved out from Z 81 100 yds SOUTH of BARDIA rd and parallel for 1100 yds. At 1120 sound of a truck in low gear was heard coming from, it is thought, Wadi WEDDAN. The patrol then moved SOUTH. 50 yds SOUTH of track a land line was noticed running EAST & WEST. This was followed for 200 yds WEST where it terminated at an old M/C apparently been there for some considerable time. The line was broken by the patrol at the point where it was discovered.

The patrol turned SOUTH for another 400 yds where a shallow L shaped trench was seen. In the opinion of the patrol the trench appeared to be only a few weeks old. After proceeding SOUTH for a further 300 yds the patrol stopped and listened for 30 mins. At 0205 hrs patrol returned NORTH and at 0215 two illuminating flares were seen from a point approx 800 yds SOUTH of BARDIA rd and 1000 yds EAST of patrol. Reaching BARDIA rd, patrol again stopped and listened. At 0245 two more flares were fired from same source. After 0300 two or three trucks and one M/C were heard from direction of Wadi BELGASSEM, one of the trucks appeared to be towing something which rattled considerably. All the time during the course of the patrol 1 M/C was heard moving NORTH of BARDIA rd.

Visibility - approx 500 yds.

RETURN

The patrol returned through Z81 at 0353 hrs.

J. Wilton Lieut
for Lt Col.,
Comd BASH.

ESRA.TINT.
12 May 41.

Appendix No: _____

PATROL REPORT

(for 24 hrs ended 0600 hrs - 12 May).

1. STRENGTH: No. 1 Recce Patrol consisted of 1 NCO 3 ORs from NERO.
2. DEPARTURE: Patrol left R.77 at 2100 hrs.
3. OBJECT: To recce area OLD BARDIA rd, 2,000 yds from perimeter.
4. ACTION: Patrol moved out just SOUTH of OLD BARDIA rd for a distance of 2,200 yds, pausing frequently to listen.
The patrol then lay down and listened for 30 mins. Nothing unusual was seen and no sound of enemy movement was heard.
5. RETURN: Patrol returned through R. 77 at 0130 hrs.
6. STRENGTH: No. 2 Recce Patrol consisted of 1 Cpl and 3 ORs from ASCO.
7. DEPARTURE: Patrol left Z. 93 at 2400 hrs.
8. OBJECT: To recce area WADI WEDDAN and report presence of any enemy.
9. ACTION: Patrol crossed WADI ZEITUN and moved fwd to head of WADI VICENZA. NMS and no sound. Patrol proceeded to edge of WADI WEDDAN and reced western edge. No sound of enemy movement was heard, and no trace of recent occupation was found.
10. RETURN. The patrol returned through Z. 93 at 0400 hrs.
11. GENERAL: Visibility was about 600 yds. The night was still and excellent for listening.

for Stewart Lt
... Lt col.
for COMD. TINT.

2/43 Br War Diary
Appendix No.

TINT
14 May 41.

PATROL REPORT

STRENGTH 1 Officer 4 O.Rs from SUVA

OBJECT (a) To discover any enemy movement SOUTH of the BARDIA rd up to a distance of 1000 yds from Rd Block.
(b) To endeavour to locate Mr Pratt who was thought to be lying wounded in this area.

TIME OF DEPARTURE 2020 hrs.

ACTION The patrol moved out from Post Z 83 and travelled towards BARDIA rd crossing it 200 yds from Rd block. When 500 yds out the patrol heard, which afterwards proved to be 4 O.Rs from TUTO carrying Mr Pratts body, moving along the BARDIA rd towards the perimeter. The patrol combed the area 1000 yds along the BARDIA rd and 800 yds SOUTH of the Rd. No enemy movement was seen or heard.

RETURN The patrol returned through Post Z 81 at 2215 hrs.

J. Wilton Lieut
for Lt Col.,
Comd TINT.

2/438 War Diary
15 May 41.

Appendix No. 1

ESRA.

TINT PATROL REPORT.

(for 24 hrs ended 0600 - 15 May 41).

NIGHT PATROLS.

1. STRENGTH: 1 Sgt 1 Cpl (from Carrier pl) and 6 ORs.
2. OBJECT: To examine the abandoned Carrier about 800 yds east of post Z. 81 and to search the area between the Carrier and perimeter for signs of the enemy.
3. DEPARTURE: The patrol moved out from post Z.83 at 2030 hrs.
4. ACTION: The patrol moved out for 800 yards, bearing towards the BARDIA rd, and went to earth. The patrol remained low until 2130 hrs. It then moved along for 200 yards on a line parallel to the BARDIA rd and 100 yards from it. A working party of 1 Cpl and 3 ORs then crossed the rd to the Carrier and the cover party of 4 took up its posn. This party remained in posn until 2330.
The working party examined Lieut. PRATT'S carrier and found the tracks in good order. The Vickers M G and Boys A/tk rifle had been removed. There was a strong smell of disinfectant in the Carrier. There is only one shell hole in the Carrier. The left side of the Carrier is badly dented and the shell apparently exploded there at Lieut PRATT'S left side. In the Carrier are shavings of metal from the radiator, which may resemble the metal found in Lieut PRATT'S clothing. A Bren gun was found approx 50 yards N W of the Carrier.
The following articles were recovered and brought in:

Bandoliers of S. A. A.	-	several.
Hand grenades (Mills) -	-	about 30.
Carburettor (spare)	-	1
Petrol pump (spare)	-	1
Small kit of tools	-	1
Case of Bren magazines -	-	1
Bren gun (found as above)	-	1
Rifles	-	2.

The shell hole is about 3" in diameter. The cross lead of the Vickers is shattered.
The two parties joined at 2330 and patrolled the area between the BARDIA rd and the OLD BARDIA rd.
5. RETURN: The patrol returned through post Z 81 at 0045 hrs.
6. OBSERVATIONS:

2100 hrs. Sound of pick and shovel knocking together, probably from WADI WEDDAN.
2310-2330. M T heard moving WEST and then returning in vicinity of BARDIA rd approx 2,000 yds EAST of post Z 81.
7. A member of the patrol which recovered the body of Lieut PRATT the previous night told a member of this patrol that he had to remove a few ammunition belts from Mr. PRATT'S legs and feet before his body could be lifted out.

James Buckley
..... Lt col.
COMD TINT.

TINT PATROL REPORT (Cont'd)

14. STRENGTH: 1 offr 27 ORs from HALO (Morning Southern).
15. DEPARTURE: 0910 hrs.
16. ACTION: Patrol moved out from R. 73 and around its area. It fired 2,000 rounds to attract attention at different places, but there was no sign of enemy movement whatsoever.
17. RETURN: The patrol returned through post R.73 at 1145 hrs.
18. STRENGTH: 1 offr and 23 O Rs from PANA. (Northern afternoon).
19. DEPARTURE: At 1320 hrs.
20. ACTION: The patrol moved out until 2,000 yds from the perimeter. Small demonstration patrols were sent out and patrol fired 1600 rds in direction of enemy post situated astride BARDIA rd. No sign of enemy movt was seen.
21. RETURN: The patrol returned through R. 77 at 1730 hrs.
22. STRENGTH: 1 offr 27 O Rs from CURA.
23. DEPARTURE: 1530 hrs.
24. ACTION: During the course of the patrol no enemy movement was seen. A number of rounds were fired at possible hiding spots and to attract attention.
25. RETURN: The patrol returned through R. 73 at 1710 hrs.

J. M. Wilton Lieut. for Lt col.
COMD TINT.

TINT PATROL REPORT.DAYLIGHT PATROLS.

1. OBJECT: Acting as part of a deception plan, and to patrol areas forward of our F D Ls and SOUTH of the BARDIA rd.

CARRIER PATROLS - area 42234223 to 42434216 to 42424200 to 42274189 to 42234223.
 2. STRENGTH: 3 Carriers. (Morning patrol).
 3. DEPARTURE: Through the perimeter at approx 42234223 at 0910 hrs.
 4. ACTION: The patrol moved along the boundaries of their area until it reached a point approx 42424200. From here 2 of 3 men were observed moving near Trig 146, area 425419. The patrol from here continued on its course, and seeing a landline in area 422419, severed it and dragged one end behind a carrier. In area 421419, pits, which may have been used as listening posts were seen, and it is estimated that they had been used within the last 7 days. The area previously indicated was thoroughly searched but no further sign of the enemy was seen.
 5. RETURN: The patrol returned through 42234223 at 1215 hrs.
 6. STRENGTH: 5 Carriers (Afternoon patrol).
 7. DEPARTURE: Through the perimeter 42234223 at 1325 hrs.
 8. ACTION: The patrol covered the same area as in the morning but in a reverse direction. At approx 1400 hrs a m/c was seen moving EAST along BARDIA rd at approx head of WADI BELGASSEM. The patrol lost sight of him as he moved further along the road.
Visibility was fair and at times was very limited by mirage and dust clouds apparently caused by wind. No enemy, except the motor cyclist, was seen and none heard and no movt was observed.
There is some low ground, capable of hiding tks in approx area 422419. There are some bushes, approx 10-12 ft high in spots in this low ground.
 9. RETURN: The patrol moved back through 42234223 at 1727 hrs.
- INFANTRY PATROLS: Areas: Northern patrol, Post R. 77 to 42434217, to 42354210 to Post R. 77.
Southern patrol, Post R. 73, to 42204198 to 42294207 to post R. 73.
10. STRENGTH: 1 Sgt and 28 ORs from SUDO (Morning Northern patrol)
 11. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ DEPARTURE: 0915 hrs.
 12. ACTION: The patrol moved out from post R. 77 300 yds South of and parallel to old BARDIA rd for 2,000 yds. The patrol then thoroughly combed the area from this point to a point 500 yds South firing at likely enemy positions but no enemy movement was seen or heard.
 13. RETURN: The patrol returned through post R. 77 at 1140 hrs.

PATROL REPORT

NIGHT PATROL

1. Strength 1 officer 27 O.Rs.
2. Object To determine whether the enemy is still manning a known position situated astride the BARDIA rd.
3. Time of Departure ~~2230~~ hrs.
2130
4. Action The patrol moved out on a bearing of $114\frac{1}{2}$ degrees from Post R 75 for 2,900x thence on a bearing of 40 degrees for 850x 1 NCO and 6 O.Rs then moved forward a further 250 yds on the same bearing and distinctly heard voices ahead. At 2255 hrs two rifle shots were heard approx 300x away near the BARDIA rd. The patrol moved on a further 100x the voices becoming more distinct and joined by others seeming to form a semicircle. The patrol went to ground with the intention of locating enemy posns. Being unsuccessful they fired 50 rds at supposed positions trying to draw enemy fire without success. Visibility approx 150 yds
5. Return The patrol guided by flares, returned through Post R 75 at 0030 hrs.

J. H. Wilton Lieut
for Lt Col.,
Comd TINT.

TINT,
18 May 41.

PATROL REPORT 17/18 May

1. Strength Fighting Patrol consisting of 1 Offr 26 O.Rs
2. Object To locate and attack enemy posts SOUTH of BARDIA rd at about 42574216 and to the NORTH.
3. Time of Departure 2130 hrs.

4. Action

The patrol left R75 and moved out for approx 2800x on bearing of 114½ degrees crossing track running N & S. Thence for 1000x on bearing of 90 degrees thence for 300x on bearing of 10 degrees. At this point the patrol heard sounds of voices estimated at 600x to the East and on starting to move in that direction, voices were heard to the WEST about 300x distance. The patrol moved about 400x to the WEST in extended order with 2 secs forward, but no trace of enemy was found. The patrol then moved NORTH to the OLD BARDIA rd cutting a cable enroute.

During this time (from 2210 hrs onwards) sounds of transport and AFV were heard to the NORTH and NORTH WEST and WEST of the patrol and on reaching OLD BARDIA rd there was still sounds of MT to the NORTH and NORTH WEST.

The Patrol Comd considered that he was EAST of the Strong Point and moved in extended order to the WEST, SOUTH of and parallel to the OLD BARDIA rd. During this time about 4 empty weapon pits were discovered and the sounds of MT still continued to the NORTH and WEST.

The patrol continued to move along the SOUTH of the OLD BARDIA rd until within about 600x of the perimeter and then turned SOUTH WEST and moved in through R 75 at 0150 hrs.

Visibility was limited to 50x throughout, but the sound of M.T. was very plainly heard and drowning any other possible sounds except in the near vicinity.

From an interrogation of the O.C. Patrol, Lieut Werthley, I am of opinion that the patrol did not move far enough to the EAST, and was thus unable to make contact with the enemy in the position he has been occupying. This is borne out by the patrol not crossing the main track running SOUTH from the BARDIA rd.

Reports from the perimeter at BARDIA rd confirm the sounds of movement of MT from the direction of the Wadi WEDDAN during the night.

The movement heard to the WEST was probably in the DIGS area from which sounds of MT were very distinct.

I have informed Lieut WORTHLEY of my opinion of the reason why the patrol was not successful.

W. C. Tint
Lt Col.,
Comd TINT.

TINT.
18 May 41.

ESRA.

PATROL REPORT.

DAYLIGHT PATROL.

Strength: 2 Carriers.

Object: To obtain a bearing on direction of road running NORTH from Trig 146 (square 425419) to enemy position astride the BARDIA rd.

Time of Departure: 1530 hrs.

Action: The patrol moved out from between R.73 and R.75 on a zigzag route to Trig 146 at 42514197. When nearly to the Trig point a sangar was noticed about 3 ft high and made of sandbags.

A member of the "I" Sec dismounted and took a bearing on the line of the road. It was $68\frac{3}{4}$ degrees. What appeared to be a camouflaged gun pit was observed about 1,000 yds NE of Trig 146.

The patrol then moved back towards the perimeter.

Return: The patrol returned at 1605 hrs.

J. H. Wilson Lt. Col.
COMD. TINT.

TINT
19 May, 41

DAYLIGHT. PATROL

1. STRENGTH Two Carriers.
2. OBJECT. To obtain bearings of tracks about Trig 146 and also on enemy posns.
3. TIME OF DEPARTURE 1905 hrs.
4. ACTION Patrol moved out from between Posts R73 & R75 directly to Trig 146. From here requisite bearings were taken (see below). Track behind Trig 146 has not recently been used. Patrol moved back directly to point of departure.
5. RETURN The Patrol returned at 1937 hrs.
6. OBSERVED Bearings taken from Trig 146 by I.O.
 - (a) Line of track towards BARDIA RD \pm 70 deg
 - (b) " " " away from " " 233 "
 - (c) " mound (left extremity of enemy posn 51 $\frac{1}{2}$ deg.
 - (d) Thickest part of sangars extending from mound to track 63 deg.

William Hunt
Lt. Col.
Comd. TINT

19 May 41.

PATROL REPORT.

NIGHT PATROL.

1. Strength: 1 offr and 4 ORs.
2. Object: To investigate lights reported.
3. Departure: The patrol departed from the vicinity of the Blockhouse 42134239 at 2100 hrs.
4. Action: The patrol moved towards the position where a mirror had been seen flashing (reported as half left, looking West from the Blockhouse and approx 1,000 yds away.)
When 1,000 yds out the patrol crossed a track and went to ground.
At 0945 hrs, it saw a light on a bearing of approx degrees. The patrol then moved towards this light for a distance of approx 1,000 yds but the light was not seen again.
The patrol then moved back towards the Blockhouse, nothing further being seen.
5. Return: The patrol returned at 2400 hrs.

J. Wilton Lt col.
COMD. TINT.

TINT
19 May, 41

REPORT OF FIGHTING PATROL

1. STRENGTH. 1 Sgt. 23 ORs
2. DEPARTURE. Patrol left R77 at 1045 hrs.
3. OBJECT. To contact enemy posns believed to be sited South of BARDIA RD. in area 426421, and to ascertain the strength of the enemy in the area.
4. ACTION

The patrol followed the line of the Old Bardia Road moving astride the road for a distance of 2000 yds. At this point the stretcher bearers were left behind with a covering party, and the patrol moved on a further 350 yds. A pause was made for listening and distinct sounds of wheelbarrows, digging and shovelling were heard from a posn estimated to be just North of the BARDIA RD in a NE direction. This would probably come from the Wadi GERIULA. The patrol moved on to 2660 yds and reced the areas by scouting dets for about 45 min to the North, East and South of Old Bardia Rd. No new sounds were heard and no trace of enemy occupation was found.

The time was now 0145 and the patrol had been advised NOT to attack after moonrise (0150 hrs). Contact could NOT be made with any enemy posns within the time available. Visibility varied from 30-50 yds.
5. RETURN

The patrol followed the line of the track to the perimeter and returned through R75 at 0300 hrs.
6.

The bearings and general observed dispositions of the enemy as disclosed by the Carriers Patrols do not coincide with the known MG position as on 13 Apl, the date of the Coy attack.

The information necessitated a change in plan and after giving the fresh orders to the Coy Pl comds concerned the Patrol moved out later than usual. This limited the forward movement.

I propose to send out a recce patrol, which can move faster than a larger body, to confirm the positions observed and to discover whether any MG posts remain in the area 4255421.

W. Stewart Lt
for Lt. Col.
Comd. TINT.

ESRA.

2/430m Wardiary

TINT
19 May 41.

Appendix No: _____

REPORT OF DAYLIGHT PATROLS.

1. Strength 2 Carriers under comd Sgt LODGE
2. Object To contact enemy posns believed to be in existence along Western edge of Wadi BELGASSEM.
3. Departure Patrol left Z 83 at 1450 hrs.

4. Action

Patrol moved out on a bearing of 60 degrees to Western branch of Wadi WEDDAN about 42474244. A number of stone buildings are situated in the Wadi on the EAST side, and estimated four 2" Mortars opened fire from the vicinity of the buildings at a range of 120 yds. About 12 Mortar bombs fell in front of the Carriers, which swung SOUTH and continued EAST towards Wadi BELGASSEM and observed a large lorry about 3-5 tens moving into BELGASSEM.

On the crest of the ridge between the WEDDAN and BELGASSEM approx 42494241-2 about 6 men were seen to run towards MG posns and open fire from 3 LMG posts at close range. The fire was returned by the Carriers, which expended about 6 Bron magazines, and then returned on a zig-zag course under fire until they reached Z 83.

On the return journey the patrol was shelled, apparently by enemy light artillery, which continued until the patrol returned to vicinity Z 83 at about 1515 hrs.

5. At about 1545 hrs patrol again left Z 83.

6. Object To contact enemy posts SOUTH of BARDIA rd on approx N-S grid 427.

7. Action

Patrol proceeded SOUTH to ~~OLD~~ BARDIA rd and followed the track EAST about 300 yds to the SOUTH. About 2800 yds out the derelict "I" Tk was sighted just SOUTH of BARDIA rd. On the approach of the Carriers a man on a M/C left the "I" Tk and proceeded EAST along the BARDIA rd at high speed. As the Carriers drew level with the "I" Tk about 42594213 they came under fire from about 2,2 pdr A/Tk guns sited SOUTH of BARDIA rd at about 42664215. No MG fire was heard. About this posn running NORTH and SOUTH is freshly turned earth in two rows about 4 feet apart with 5 feet between mounds. Size of each mound about 3 feet by 6" by 3" high. It appeared to be a minefield and extends SOUTH from BARDIA rd to about 300 yds SOUTH of old BARDIA track.

The patrol swung SOUTH along this minefield and then proceeded towards the perimeter, under fire for about 1000 yds from the A/Tk guns when the dust from the vehs apparently prevented observation by the enemy. During the return shelling in BELGASSEM area was taking place and no firing came from that direction.

8. Return Patrol returned through Z 83 about 1610 hrs.

W. C. Cullen
Lt Col.,
Comd TINT.

TINT,
20 May 41.

REPORT OF NIGHT PATROL

1. Strength A recce patrol consisting of 1 Offr 2 O.R.
2. Object To recce enemy posns SOUTH of BARDIA rd in vicinity square 426421.
3. Departure Patrol left Rd Block at 2100 hrs.

4. Action

Patrol moved due SOUTH from Rd Block about 300 yds, then turned along line of BARDIA rd. At 1500 yds a derelict Carrier just SOUTH of the rd was blazing fiercely and helped to guide the patrol. As the patrol drew level with the Carrier voices were heard NORTH of the BARDIA rd, apparently speaking in normal tones but NOT very distinct. At 2000 yds voices were heard from ahead coming from a SE direction, and the patrol stopped to listen. The direction of movement was altered slightly SE to proceed direct towards the voices. At this stage a truck was heard to come from a NE direction and stopped at a posn approx in the vicinity of the voices. Patrol moved fwd in 100 yd bounds, with pauses for listening, to 2700 yds. Distinct sounds were heard of scraping as if material was being dragged off the truck, and the voices were then so distinct that the O.C. patrol decided to crawl.

The patrol crawled fwd about 200 yds. With the aid of field glasses, men were seen moving about carrying unidentified objects in front of them. The patrol continued to move fwd and crawled through a minefield apparently newly laid. The mounds of fresh earth were 4 ft long and soil had been roughly thrown on top of one of the mines examined which had not been completely covered over and part of which was clearly visible. This mine was felt and consisted of metal of a dark colour with flat top and side. The mines were laid in a single row, about 4 ft apart, and appeared to be connected by a double strand of wire, of which one strand was thin and the other like medium telephone cable, both insulated.

Patrol crawled SOUTH along WEST edge of minefield about 100 yds until the voices in that direction were very clear and prevented further movement. The enemy party appeared to be working on the SOUTH end of the minefield in the vicinity of Old BARDIA rd. Further to the EAST, distinct sounds of digging and shovelling were heard, and voices speaking in normal tones.

All identified voices heard during the patrol were definitely ITALIAN. The strength of the enemy in this area was estimated from observation and voices at 20-30 between BARDIA rd and Old BARDIA rd.

The minefield discovered is estimated to be about 2900y EAST of the ROAD BLOCK and appears to be laid between the two roads.

During the patrol the R.H.A. were spasmodically shelling an area some distance to the EAST. As this shelling had been notified, the patrol was limited to 3256x movement EAST.

5. Return Patrol returned through Rd Block about 0115 hrs.

J. M. Wilson Lieut
for Lt Col.,
Comd TINT.

TINT,
20 May 41.

REPORT OF NIGHT PATROL

1. Strength 2 N.C.Os and 1 O.R.
2. Object To ascertain if depression 42484240 and machine
 gun posts in rear are occupied at night.
3. Time of Departure 2145 hrs.

4. Action

Moved out through Post Z 83 on a bearing of 90 degrees
At 500x out voices and movement could be heard to NORTH and
EAST. At 1150x an enemy party of about 6 men moved SOUTH
along Wadi WEDDAN. As they moved two men spoke to other in-
dividuals or groups at intervals of 150-200x and one man
answered in each case. There ^{were} 6 different groups. 42484235
to 42464245. The voices were ITALIAN. Sounds of digging were
heard some distance to the SOUTH EAST. The sounds were inter-
mittent and no voices could be heard.

One of the Patrol, Cpl HARTREE, who has had a lot of
contracting and mining experience was of the opinion that
mines were being laid. This opinion is completely independent
from the results of the above patrol.

5. Return The patrol moved back on bearing of 220 degrees and
 returned through Post 81 at 0100 hrs.

J. Milligan Lieut
for Lt Col.,
Comd TINT.

2 May 41.

BASH INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 11

Appendix No: 20

(Compiled to 0600 2 May 41.)

1. GENERAL (TOBRUK TRUTH - extracts) Greece - 80% of original British Forces safely evacuated. Evacuation orderly, and all lighter equipment brought back, other equipment destroyed before leaving. Germans are estimated to have lost 75,000, own casualties 3,000. Enemy dive bombing on transport net with fire from 80 MGs which brought down 5 planes. Navy and RAF made combined attacks on position 40 miles west of TOBRUK. Enemy losses - damaged 100 vehicles, 30 containing troops and 20 burst into flames. Prisoners captured at Dassawa 7,900 including many senior officers also 93 guns. Italians expected Dassawa to last for 3 months, it was captured by Sth Africans in 10 days. American built 'Havoc' fighters prominent if fights over Britain.
2. TOBRUCH - General
Up to latest information received enemy are still holding small portion of perimeter around area S 9 and S 6 with approx 30 tanks together with small force of infantry. 20 Bde have the matter in hand.
3. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.
Three enemy P.C.W. captured on our front yesterday were identified as from 2nd Coy 7 BERSAGLIERI Regt.
4. OWN FRONT
Shelling: There has been an increased intensity of shelling by the enemy over the last day, most of these falling north of BARDIA rd along a line about 400 yds west of Wadi ZEUITUN. Shelling also reported around 278 and area 41854240. No damage incurred.
Enemy Ground activity Considerable movement of enemy troops reported on ASCO front chiefly in area opposite posts Z 82 and Z 39. These were engaged by fire from our LMGs and rifles and it is reported that casualties were inflicted. Artillery fired accurately to our front and silenced two MGs in front of post Z 89. Five men appeared over skyline carrying what appeared to be a pole and white object. When fired on they put up pole which was knocked down (or thrown down) men went to earth. Later enquiries lead to belief that white object may have been white cloth with red cross and that men were stretcher bearers. Ranks are reminded that they must observe the immunity from fire of the red cross. Three prisoners were captured by post Z 101 out of a party of approx 20 who approached. When this party were fired on they made off leaving three of their number to be collected by members of the post.
Own activity A fighting patrol of 3 officers and 53 O.R. from TUTO moved out to destroy enemy posts previously reported in area between BARDIA rd and Wadi WEDDAN. No sign of the enemy was seen except recently occupied sangars.
5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT (GERMAN)
(a) Aerial bombs: An unexploded bomb dropped on 28Apr has been examined and is a type not previously encountered in this area. It weighs about 250 lb and has a central charge, exploded by a time fuze while still in flight.
This explosion arms and disperses 5 30-lb anti-personnel bombs. These bombs have percussion type nose fuzes.
The following descriptions have been taken from captured photographs and indications of these weapons being used must be reported immediately.
(b) A 'STURM' Arty Gun: It has a short barrel with a calibre of 75 mm. It is mounted in a Pz Kw III, which has a completely reconstructed squat turret. This turret does not revolve and the gun has a very limited traverse.
(c) The one-man Portable flame-thrower: The operator is dressed in protective clothing and carries two cylinders on his back. One, the larger, probably contains oil, whilst the smaller, compressed nitrogen. He holds the flame-throwing nozzle across his thighs. It is estimated that the maximum range in a light following wind would be about 45 ft.

J.H. WILTON Lieut I.O. BASH.

BASH INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY COMPILED

TO 1600 hours 5 May 41

1. GENERAL - (TOBRUCH TRUTH Extracts)

A Cairo message says the outbreak of hostilities in Iraq followed a carefully planned German campaign of intrigue. The arrival of British Forces at BASSOKA forced the Iraq leader to come out into the open. The leaders including 4 ambitious young generals, do not enjoy the confidence of the people- they are self seekers. In the Sollum area we attacked a large number of mechanised forces sweeping past the enemy column South of Sollum to the Bardia - Tobruch Rd. The enemy was taken by surprise and suffered much damage. South African fighters and bombers are already in Egypt. Mr Wendell Wilkie said US must ensure deliveries to Britain by any means deemed best. Record total of 16 German planes destroyed over Britain last night- RAF losses Nil. Main attack on Meryside much damage was done and it is feared heavy casualties.

2. TOBRUCH - General

A determined counter attack was made on night 3/4 May by 18 Bde on the enemy in the MEDAUUAR salient. It was supported by Arty tanks and MGs, but was broken off owing to the bold handling of the enemy's MGs, his use of flame-throwers and the presence of considerable armoured units which prevented the attack from developing. Post R8 was captured but otherwise the posns held by ourselves and the enemy remain unchanged. A unit of the Royal Navy carried out a bombardment along the 396 Grid-line on the area just South of the Derna Rd.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

Throughout 3 May the enemy continued his consolidation of the salient. It was decided to counter-attack his posns on the night 3/4 May using the 18 Bde supported by all available Arty, 1 Coy MGs (less 1 Pl), 12 light tanks and 7 Inf tanks. The Bns employed were the 2/9 and 2/12 and their respective start lines were thru R13 and R14 and the escarpment E and W through S13. The 2/9 Bn were to attack to the West to and excluding Hill 209 whilst the 2/12 were to attack to the South, to and incl Hill 209. Both units met with very strong opposition. In the North the 2/12 met with heavy MG fire and the flame throwers which held up their advance; in the South-East the 2/9 ran into MG fire and a number of amoured units which prevented their attack from proceeding. At 0115 hrs 18 Bde reported that Post R8 had been captured and that two enemy tanks had gone up in flames. Very bitter fighting continued until 0320 when it was deemed advisable to disengage the attacking units and they withdrew to their former locations in a general reserve. At 0015 hrs the enemy launched an attack against "A" Coy 2/23 Bn but it was repulsed with severe enemy losses. Our casualties during the night are not yet certain, but it would appear that each of the two attacking Bns had incl slightly wounded 100 all ranks. It is impossible to estimate the number of enemy casualties bu fwd posts have already reported large numbers of enemy casualties in front of their posns. This morning's Tac R revealed that our Arty is doing considerable damage to enemy MT and AFVs in the salient.

4. ENEMY ARIAL ACTIVITY

E A made three recce flights over the Tobruch Fortress on 3 May. On 4 May, a bombing and machine-gunning raid was made in the vicinity of the DERNA Rd and the old Italian Amn Dump. The damage done has not yet been ascertained, but it is thought to be slight.

5. SECURITY

An officer was arrested at 0100 hrs for acting in an indiscreet manner. He had been asking innumerable questions down at the Quay, and prior to having his identity established was found to have a P L signal on his person, giving the movements of H.M. ships DECOY and DEFENDER.

The signal was dated 2 May. He intimated that he had the information "on authority" and that all his unit know of the destroyers' arrival on Saturday night. It is requested that future movements of shipping be treated as MOST SECRET and all units MUST ensure that this secrecy is observed.

6. OWN SECTOR

About 0615 and 1825 each day a MG has fired small bursts at posts Z80 and Z81 and occasionally at other posts in that area, gun using indirect fire from a post near the BARDIA Rd. About 0710 each day movement of about 10 men observed on western side of Wadi WEDDAN about 42444244. These men are in view for only a few minutes each morning and about the same time men have been observed east of the Wadi WEDDAN in the same area

Between 0200 and 0400 sounds of M/C and one MT have been heard in either Wadi WEDDAN or ZEITUN, but no other Mt is known to be in these Wadis.

At 0335 today 3 rockets were fired from near BARDIA Rd towards the sea and at 0400 5 more were fired. Frequent patrols into area west of Wadi Weddan has found no enemy in that area but movement is still seen and heard in that Wadi and eastwards.

Tac/R of 1210-1240 on 4 May disclosed 200 MT in SIDI BUAMUD area. The enemy activity on this sector has been very slight during the last three days and no movement in or occupation of any area between our lines and Wadi WEDDAN by him has been established. He has indulged in some shelling of the area Z81, Z89 and blockhouse, with some occasional shelling, possibly for registration purposes of areas along the BARDIA Rd. for about 1000 yds West of the Blockhouse.

The Wadi area has been extensively shelled by our Arty- no details are known of the results

J.H. WILTON LIEUT.
I.O. BASH

ENEMY ACTIVITY

A made three passes over the Trench fortress on 3 May. On 4 May, a bombing and machine-gunning raid was made in the vicinity of the WEDDAN Rd and the old Italian A.M. Camp. The damage done has not yet been ascertained, but it is thought to be slight.

SECRET,
6 May 41.BASH INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

No 13

Appendix No: 25

(compiled to 1600 hrs 6 May 41)

TOBRUCH1. GENERAL

During last night, units of 26 Bde took over from 18 Bde Units in the MEDAUUAR salient. There was very little enemy activity reported.

The arty carried out battery tasks and harrassing fire during the night 4/5 May.

Enemy air activity was increased over TOBRUCH yesterday, and the despicable attack on the hospital ship 'KARAFARA' has been established as deliberate. It has been stated that "the sea around the ship was a seething cauldron of near misses, and it seemed but a matter of moments before she should disappear altogether.

One bomb landed in the space between the engine room and boiler room and started a fire on board".

The fire was eventually subdued and the ship sailed later.

2. GROUND ACTIVITY

Patrols and movement of enemy M T were observed in the area North of DERNA rd on front of 18 CAV. Information has been received that the Arabs in WADI BU CHESCIALA have been given 48 hrs notice to vacate that area.

Active patrolling was carried out during last night, but contacts were not made with the enemy.

3. AIR ACTIVITY

The following incident occurred during a raid on PILASTRINO area about 1935 hrs 2 May 41:-

A number of JU 87 escorted by ME 110's and ME 109's dive-bombed the area. The ME 110's flew low and ground 'Strafed'

One ME 110 was brought down by S A fire from a Pioneer unit and the two occupants were captured. On interrogation, the observer admitted that one of his engines was hit by SA fire and stopped.

Troops armed with Brens and rifles, please take note.

Even the ME 110, about which there are many stories of an "armoured cockpit" is not invulnerable, and the ME 109, J U 87 and other dive-bombers are well worth "taking on" with .303" amm.

(b) On five occasions, E A were observed making a recce over TOBRUCH. In addition, there were 8 dive-bombing and machine-gunning attacks. At a height of 300 ft, 4 M E 110 bombed and M G'd area SOUTH of F S D at 1120 hrs. No damage was done.

At 1245 hrs, 2 J U 88's bombed the harbour and town area from a height of 21,000 ft.

The major attacks were carried out at 1826 hrs by 40 JU 87 and an escort of 8 M E 109. A great number of bombs were dropped on Div HQ Area. Some MT incl ambulances were damaged, but considering the amount of bombs dropped, the damage was comparatively slight. The A A report that 4 E A were hit during this raid.

At 1836 hrs, 12 J U 87 and 4 M E 109 attacked the hospital ship. 60 Bombs were dropped, one which hit the ship. The intense AA barrage caused several JU 87's to turn and drop bombs wide of the ship. 5 hits were registered by the AA during this raid.

OWN SECTOR

Last night saw increased Artillery activity in this sector. The enemy systematically shelled our sector at hourly intervals all through the night. Most of these fell in rear of ASCO, BLOCKHOUSE area and vicinity of BASH HQ. No damage to personnel or equipment occurred. At 0500 hrs this morning the BASH "Bush Artillery" opened up with 9 guns directed at the area of the Wadis. This was part of a deceptive programme to divert the enemy's attention to this flank whilst an operation was carried out on the Western perimeter.

At 0235 hrs this morning a fighting patrol consisting of 1 Offrs and 24 O.R. moved out with the object of destroying a

suspected enemy machine gun post SOUTH of the BARDIA rd. This area was searched by the patrol but no sign of the enemy was seen or heard.

Following messages were received from the Prime Minister of Australia and Lieut Gen Sir Thomas Blamey G.O.C. A.I.F. M.E. respectively:-

"I have been watching with pride the magnificent performance of you all at TOBRUK. Against odds you are, I believe, putting up a fight which will live in our history and I am confident that you will win. I feel it a great honour to be not only your Prime Minister but your friend. Please convey to all ranks the greetings and the thanks of Australia -

Menzies.

"Prime Minister sends message to convey intense admiration for heroic efforts which will be immortal in history of our people. Personally believe your great showing will have decisive value. Stick to it. -

Blamey.

J.H. WILTON Lieut
I.O. BASH

2/43 Bn
War Diary

BASH INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

7 May 41.

Appendix No: 26

(Compiled to 1600 hrs on 7 May 41.)

OUR SECTOR

A sandstorm lasting throughout 6 May 41 considerably reduced observation and activity during that day. At 1900 hrs the BASH "BUSH" arty fired about 40 rds into the wadi BELGASSEM area and at 2045 supporting arty commenced 15 mins shelling of point 117 area 426423 resuming at 2115. A large fire was observed in the area at 2135 hrs which continued to blaze for at least 30 minutes. This indicated that an oil dump had been hit. The wadi BELGASSEM was also shelled during May 7, 41.

A patrol of 3 pushed out for 3,000 yds north of and parallel to BARDIA rd, failed to see any signs of enemy movement or occupation.

The enemy again indulged in some mortar bombing of wadi ZEITUN area, the nature of the fire suggesting a registration task.

GENERAL

During the night 5/6 May close fighting took place in the vicinity square 400429. An enemy bty firing from area 427424 dropped a number of shells in the harbour and surroundings, but did no damage.

On 6 May an attempt was made to infiltrate troops into the enemy salient on the western side of the perimeter which succeeded, allowing our FDLs to be advanced almost to the north south line through post R 10. An attempt by the enemy to construct a gun position at point 84, area 397439 was broken up by our arty.

It is reported that enemy aircraft have dropped a large number of THERMOS bombs in the TOBRUCH area. Some have already been located at 41254353 and 41274373.

ENEMY EQUIPMENT (German)

250'Flam' Bomb. This is a large incendiary aerial bomb which may be used possibly against troops and encampments in the Western Desert. The specifications are as follows:-

Length -63"
Width -21"
Weight - approx 110 kgms

It is said to contain about 10 galls of inflammable liquid. It has a bursting charge of 2.8 lb of T.N.T., which is fired by a flash from a leakage charge of charcoal and magnesium.

Usually the liquid is scattered over a 20 yards radius.

ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY

The enemy made three recce flights over the harbour and town yesterday.

The first was made by a single JU 88 at about 21,000 ft, the second by a H E 126 escorted by 5 M E 109's and the third by two M E 109's.

It is probable that the second flight was a photographic reconnaissance. At 1650 hrs, three J U 88's carried out a high-level bombing attack, dropping about two sticks of bombs on the North side of the harbour, Little or no damage resulted.

DNR OWN AERIAL ACTIVITY (RAF Activity Summary No 1 - Ltc 5 May)

During the past five nights, an average of 10 heavy bombers nightly have been directed against military objectives in the BENGHASI area, where shipping in the harbour and concentrations of J U 52's on BENINA Aerodrome were successfully attacked. Night attacks have been carried out on BERCA and GAZALA North and South Aerodromes a few nights ago. Night bombing attacks have been made on J U 52's on the DERNA aerodrome

The medium Bomber squadrons have been attacking M T concentrations daily, the targets including M T concentrations between BENGLASI and DERNA as well as in other areas.

These sqns successfully attacked enemy shipping, setting fire and sinking three ships carrying petrol to BENGHASK.

Long-range Hurricanes have carried out successful attacks against enemy aircraft at BENINA and DERNA and also on enemy MT moving on the rds between these places. Fighter patrols have provided protective patrols over shipping.

It is estimated that during the period under review, approx 14 EA have been destroyed by bombing and 190 MT destroyed or damaged by bombing or ground-strafting.

The following messages were received from the Commander in Chief and the Corps Comd respectively

C. in C. "Good work -, Keep going".

Corps Comd. - "Garrison will be relieved as soon as possible."

STOP PRESS

75% of the Australian Forces were evacuated from Greece. The losses in material were made up by American shipments.

J. H. WILTON Lieut.
I.O. BASH.

2/43 Bn War Diary

Appendix No: 2

BASH INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 15.

(compiled to 1600 hrs on 8 May, 1941).

The following messages have been received by the G.O.C. TOBRUK FORTRESS:-

1. From the PRIME MINISTER of ENGLAND:
" The whole Empire is watching your steadfast and spirited defence of this important outpost of EGYPT, with gratitude and admiration. "
2. From General Sir Archibald WAVELL, G.C.B., C.M.G., MC., C in C
" Your magnificent defence is upsetting the enemy's plans for attack on EGYPT and giving us time to build up force for a counter offensive. You could NOT be doing better service. Well done. "

GENERAL:

An increased amount of movement of enemy MT inf and tks has been observed on the RAS EL MEDAUUAR sector north of the DERNA rd. Enemy consolidation continues in the SALIENT but our own forces have infiltrated forward and the line now roughly follows the NS grid running through R.10.

GROUND ACTIVITY:

The enemy have been reported digging in in the following areas:- square 398435 (near post S.21); south of 40114301 (ACROMA-PILASTRINO rd); 39834389 (north of DERNA rd); 39684318 (north of ACROMA-PILASTRINO rd); 39524343 (south of DERNA rd, whilst a new gun posn has been reported at 39714393 (north of DERNA rd). During the last few days a number of small attacks, probably by fighting patrols, have been made in the RAS EL MEDAUUAR sector. In all cases the patrols were pushed back.

ENEMY METHODS: (GERMAN)

Flame-throwers: The operator carrying the equipment moves forward on foot protected by two tanks. spurts of flame are used to drive tps out of their dugouts, weapon pits etc. MGs of tks are directed on them as they scatter.

Thermos Bomb: In previous THERMOS bombing attacks, the bombs usually have been dropped from a height between 500 and 1500 ft, otherwise they burst or explode on impact. In raid of 7 May they were dropped from a height between 17,000 and 20,000 ft - probably some GERMAN modification. Coys are reminded that if THERMOS bombs are located, they must be roped off and the location reported to this H.Q. immediately. THERMOS bombs CANNOT be disarmed, their demolition being carried out: (a) by SA fire directed from behind cover (a few sand bags or equivalent) at least 50 yds distant and on the side remote from the noscap of the bomb; or (b) by placing around the bomb an old truck tyre on the end of a long rope. The tyre is drawn over the bomb by the rope from a distance, preferably from behind cover.

AERIAL ACTIVITY:

The heavy dust storm on 6 May protected the TOBRUK FORTRESS from any enemy air action. At 0645 7 May two planes carried out a high level bombing attack. 6 or 7 bombs were dropped in the town but very little damage resulted. The same planes dropped at least 60 THERMOS bombs on the areas 41254353 and 41274373 (each near TOBRUK, north of DERNA rd.) At 1130 hrs several enemy planes carried out dive bombing attacks on the water installations south of the harbour and in the vicinity of the STAGING CAMP. Exact damage is as yet unknown, but is thought to be slight. One of HM Ships brought down a plane during this raid.

OWN SECTOR:

A TAC/R plane revealed that at 1000 hrs yesterday, two concentrations of vehs were seen in the BU AMUD area (approx 7 miles along BARDIA rd). One of these appeared to be 30 medium tks and the other 100 MT, widely dispersed. Odd vehs and personnel were seen and heard at different periods through the day and night, but not close enough to be engaged by SAA fire.

The BASH "BUSH" arty were again active last night and distributed approx 80 shells amongst the various wadis.

A patrol consisting of 1 NCO and 3 men from NERC last night explored the WADI WEDDAN but found no trace of enemy therein.

J. H. WILTON, Lieut.
IO. BASH.

APPENDIX "A" (Message Form etc.)

DISTINGUISHING LETTER TO BE USED IN THE ORIGINATOR'S NO. SPACE

Branch of Staff or Unit or appointment	Distinguishing letter
General Staff	O. or I or S. D.
Adjutant-General's Branch	A
Q. M. G.'s Branch	Q
M. G. O's Branch	M. G. O.
<u>Division</u>	
G. S. C.	O. or I.
D. A. A. G.	Q.
D. A. Q. M. G.	Q.
D. M. D. O. S.	C.
<u>Brigade</u>	
B. L.	Q.
S. C.	Q.
B. I. O.	I.
<u>Unit</u>	
Adjt.	
Q. M.	O. or Q.
I. Q.	I.

See F.S.P.B. App. 1.

APPENDIX "B" (Message Form etc.)

(a) How a message must not be sent.

TO G.S.O. 11 X Corps

FROM G.S.O. 1st Division

Orig. No.
D.W. 151206

Date
31st May

I.R.No.

Reference your 022 of yesterdays date order have been issued to Camp Commandant to vacate LOUIS CHATEAU as directed.

(Signed) A.B. SMITH
Major, G.S.O. 11
1 Div.

T.O.O.
6.25 p.m.

(b) How above message will be sent.

TO BANG

Orig. No.
0293

Date
31

I.R.No.
022

FROM BLED

Done

(Signed) A.B. SMITH
Major

T.O.O.
1825

BASH INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 16

(to 1600 hrs on 9 May 41)

1. GENERAL

- (a) Concentrations of MT in the TOBRUK area appear to be diminishing considerably, the Tac R 8 May reporting only 140 vehicles in the area ACROMA - EL ADEM.
At the same time an increase of MT is reported in the GAMBUT area and a corresponding decrease at BU AMUD.
- (b) Patrols have reported that the enemy are using dummy figures and section posts etc. but at present it is impossible to say whether these are expected to draw our arty fire or whether the enemy's shortage of infantry has been responsible for their construction.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

- (a) During the morning of 6 May a GERMAN inf patrol attacked the 23 Bn posn at Post S 9. However, with the assistance of arty support and fire from S 8, the post was able to repel the attackers by 0940 hrs. Enemy casualties were at least 6/8. Wounded men found to be carrying gelignite in tins which were probably portable GERMAN explosive charges as described below. Our casualties were - one killed and one wounded.
- (b) At 1735 hrs 7 May, a Bty of 51 Fd Regt engaged a party consisting of 10 MT and 100 inf at TRIG 89 (398438). They dispersed in a westerly direction over the crest.
- (c) At 1915 hrs, 1 RHA reported that 100 vehs were moving from West to East on the escarpment at 41454117. Shortly afterwards, it was reported from the same source that 15 tanks were moving West to East at approx 41074174.
- (d) At 1030 hrs 8 May, 1 RHA reported approx 200 mixed MT widely dispersed in area SW pt 209 squares 395426, 395427, 396426, 396427, 397427 and 398427.
- (e) It was reported that the small hut South of track at Post S 4 was removed during the night by the enemy. He evidently thought that it was being used as a ranging mark by our arty. It was therefore removed and put to some better use.
- (f) The enemy spasmodically machine gunned and shelled areas in the Salient and SOUTH of the DERNA rd in the MEDAUUR sector during night 8/9.

A number of shells also fell in the PILASTRINO area and at 0145 hrs an old ITALIAN ammunition dump was destroyed.

An enemy 3 gun bty was reported to be taking up a posn at 39644315. As soon as they opened fire, our arty put down some CB fire and the enemy shelling ceased.

There was considerable movement of MT during the night 8/9 May particularly in the vicinity of the water tower 39784007 and behind the escarpment in the PILASTRINO sector. In the latter case they were reported as moving from WEST to EAST.

Active patrolling was again carried out by our forward units. The patrols established that the enemy continues his digging and wiring in the Salient and that the area in vicinity Pt 173, 39954304 is completely occupied and wired, Pt 173 being used as an OP.

3. AIR ACTIVITY

- (a) At 1612 hrs 40 JU 87/88, some ME 109 and a few CR 42 dive-bombed the South side of the harbour from a height of 5000 ft. A number of 1000 lb bombs were dropped and one of HM ships was sunk.
- (b) At 2240 hrs, one unidentified plane, at a height of 12,000 ft, carried out a high-level bombing attack on the Northern point of the Harbour. As on the previous night, another plane glided in with engines shut off, and dropped thermos bombs in the same area as the previous night.
- (c) Four flights were made by EA over the fortress area yesterday but no bombs were dropped.

- (d) On 8 May four high-level flights were made by small numbers of EA over the TOBRUK FORTRESS area. In all cases three or four planes only were used. No bombing was reported. At 1157 hrs 9 May five JU 88s made a highlevel bombing attack (13,000 ft) on the harbour area. Five sticks of bombs were dropped some falling SOUTH of the hospital whilst others fell in the harbour and in the area SOUTH of it. No damage has been reported. Our long range aircraft carried out a successful raid on grounded EA and a small petrol dump at MECHILI.

4. AFV SIGNAL FLAGS (GERMAN)

<u>Flag Colour</u>	<u>Flag Erect</u>	<u>Flag Waves</u>
Yellow	CONFORM	LINE AHEAD
Blue	EXTEND	ARROWHEAD
Red	ACTION	ENEMY TKS
Yellow & Red	TAKE POST	BRCAD ARROWHEAD
Yellow & Blue	RIGHT WHEEL	LEFT WHEEL
BLUE & RED	TURRET DOWN	TANKS ABOUT
Yellow with black cross	OUT OF ACTION	S O S
Red pennant with white circle containing swastika	LEADER HERE	OWN TANKS

5. OWN FRONT

Light shelling by the enemy was reported twice today both times in the vicinity of the blockhouse. Slight movement seen North of BARDIA rd near twin columns at approx 0930 hrs. Apart from this enemy activity on our front has been nil

J.H. WILTON Lieut
I.O. BASH.

(to 2000 hrs on 10 May 41).OWN SECTOR:

On 9 May a patrol of 3 Carriers MG (Comd Lieut L. J. PRATT) moved out at 1435 hrs and contacted enemy in area 42324182 (5,500 yds SOUTH of E.81), the enemy taking cover when fired on. The Carriers cut a land line running NORTH and SOUTH through TRIG 146, area 425419 (4,400 yds approx SE of R.77) and moved to 42554215 (3,500 yds from perimeter and slightly SOUTH of BARDIA rd) where they were fired on by LMGs and A/Tk rifles. The Carriers engaged the enemy with MG and grenades. Casualties were inflicted on the 40-50 men found in the vicinity and two found cowering in a trench were hauled aboard a Carrier and brought in.

The defence system is astride the BARDIA rd and consists of a series of weapon pits constructed in the form of a circle for all round protection.

At 0300 hrs to-day a patrol of 1 off (Lieut M. WORTHLEY) and 29 ORs, with a covering force of 1 off (Capt M. R. JAMES) and 22 ORs moved out to ambush an enemy group seen about 0700 hrs each day near a pair of stone columns at 42424245, east of our left fwd Coy's front. The enemy group failed to appear; but about 10 sangers were observed EAST of head of WADI WEDDAN and WEST of WADI BELGASSEM. These were occupied. A mound, much in use when the enemy first moved into the wadis, is situated between the two wadis at about 42484247. No movement was seen in the WADI WEDDAN. The stone columns are about 12 feet high, of loose stones, bound with wire, and are not hollow. They are easily climbed. The patrol was fired on when returning at 0715 hrs.

At 1530 hrs to-day, 3 Carriers (Comd Lieut R. F. SUDHOLZ) moved to area 425418 (about 7,500 yds approx SE of Blockhouse). They met an enemy working party of about 50, with other parties in the vicinity - estimated total strength 200. The parties were unarmed and the patrol proceeded through them, firing LMGs and throwing grenades, while under fire from A/Tk guns and enemy tks to the SE.

Some casualties were caused, 3 dead being seen in one group. 26 Bren mags and a half belt of Vickers and ten grenades were fired from stationary vehs at point blank range, but effect could not be observed. Enemy appeared to be ITALIANS.

Prisoners taken yesterday belonged to 8 BN 7 BERSAGLIERIE Regt, TRIENTO Div and state that 10 or 11 BN is on their right. Part of 46 ARTY REGT is astride the BARDIA rd about 10 kilos from the perimeter, and some A/Tk guns are in their area - astride the rd about 2,200 yds out.

7 Regt is a holding force, and is "purely on the defence", and there has been no talk of their taking part in any attack. They receive about 2 litres of water per man per day - a well about 10 kilos along the BARDIA rd being used - but food is scarce.

This Bn area was visited to-day by G.O.C. 9 Div, Major-General L. J. MORSHEAD, C.M.G., O.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

At 0745 hrs to-day, 4 tks approached our front and were fired on by arty when 3,000 yds out. The tks then moved to the SOUTH and fired on post R. 69 from about 600 yds range with MG and 2 pdr. When engaged by arty, the tks moved off.

BASH "Bush" arty to-night fired ab at 40 rds into the area visited by the Carriers this afternoon.

Practically all points used on this front for observation purposes have been shelled or machine gunned by the enemy - demonstrating that his observation is good and the necessity for concealment and camouflage.

J. H. WILTON, IO.

2/43rd War Diary
Appendix No: 20

BASH INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 18
(to 1900 hrs 11 May 41).

1. GENERAL: Considerable movt of MT and tanks was reported along escarpment to the SOUTH of the Fortress and along the BARDIA rd.
The successful evacuation of 350 sick or wounded personnel was carried out on 9 May 41 and more were evacuated on 10 May.
A TAC/R of 10 May, disclosed presence of 150 enemy aircraft at DERNA with 70 at GAZALA. 15 MT were seen below escarpment at GAMBUT and 20 at MENASTIR rd house. One of HM ships carried out a bombardment of the GAZALA SOUTH aerodrome.
2. GROUND ACTIVITY: Our arty carried out a successful shoot against an enemy OP located at pt 173 (39954305, near PILASTRINO-ACROMA rd). Several enemy tps, probably the P.O.O. and his staff were seen dispersing after our shelling began.
1 NF have been firing "opportunity" shoots and one pl reports having knocked out a LA and a sniping gun. MGs from this unit, operating well fwd in the salient report having successfully engaged two enemy LMGs and a truck load of inf.
A pl from 2/1 PIONEER BN ran into by MG fire in the MEDAUUAR salient - 1 OR killed and 1 offr and 1 OR wounded. 2/23 BN patrol surprised ITALIANS working on defences in the area 39624338. 31 were captured - identified as part of 27 BRESCIA Engineer Bn.
The enemy are reported to be occupying sangars at 39644342 and from 39704320 to 39714324. A MG post has been located at 39874309 and at least five small posts in line between 39954304 and 40064304 (all these points are within or adjacent to the SALIENT).
3. ENEMY EQUIPMENT: GERMANS are using a new HY A/TK RIFLE 41. Calibre is 28/20 mm - has liquid recuperator and muzzle brake, is not mounted on a carriage and can be carried by 5 men. MV 6250 feet per sec. The projectile has a special driving band which is compressed by the tapering barrel and develops a streamlined tail. Projectile is a solid grain shaped core in an aluminium sheet. Life of barrel - 400 rds approx.
4. AERIAL ACTIVITY: The damage done in the raid on TOBRUK harbour at 1157 hrs 9 May has been assessed at: No. 4 Jetty was damaged, one stevedore was killed and one offr and 3 stevedores wounded. The only activity reported during 24 hrs to 1300 hrs 10 May was a flight by a single plane at 18,000 ft at 0138. 1436 hrs 10 May, 3 enemy aircraft made a high level bombing attack from 20,000 ft. The bombs fell on the NORTH pt near the coastal btys. They did no damage but caused 5 minor casualties to tps swarming in the area. 1745 hrs on 10 May 4 ME 110s carried out ground strafing against the fwd elements of 18 Cav. High explosive bullets were used but no casualties occurred. Our long range aircraft shot down an ME 109 trying to take off the GAZALA LG. A number of other enemy aircraft were shot up on the ground.
5. OWN SECTOR: MT and M/Cs were heard in the wadi area and near the BARDIA rd at intervals during the night 10/11 May. Direct flying pigeons have been seen over this area - more details are required. A recce plane passed low over this area at 1914 hrs to-day.

J. H. WILTON,
IO. BASH.

(to 2100 hrs - 13 May 41).

1. GENERAL: The situation at TOBRUK generally remains unchanged. The change over between 2/1 Pioneer BN and the 2/13 Bn on 20 Bde front was effected without incident. Our patrols were again active during the night 11/12 May and contact was made with enemy in vicinity of FORBES MOUND 39954304. The spasmodic shelling of the MEDAUULR salient during that night was ineffective. The Naval bombardment of the GAZALA NORTH landing ground during night 10/11 May produced several fires.

A patrol of 1 offr and 10 ORs moved to within 100 yds of FORBES MOUND, 39954304 at 2230 hrs 11 May. An examination of one of our old posns was carried out, and the amn, rifles and food which we left were found to be intact. The enemy probably thought that they were some form of booby trap. It has been confirmed that a MG posn has been established near the derelict plane, 39894309. Considerable enemy MT movt was observed from posts on the Southern front. On night 10/11 May, a patrol of 2/17 Bn moved out along EL ADUM rd to 8 kilo post - no enemy movement or fire was heard during this operation.

2. ENEMY EQUIPMENT: GERMAN hand grenade: The grenade has a dark greenish grey egg-shaped thin steel cover approx 2" diameter at centre and 3" long with a raised rim around the middle. In the centre of the grenade and embedded in the brown explosive (which in appearance resembles poor quality gelignite) is a black carbon tube containing a No. 8 detonator. Screwed into this holder is a 5 second delayed action flash cap at the end of which there is a wire loop which protrudes from the top of the grenade: to this wire is attached a green knob of approx 1" diameter which is in turn screwed to the end of the flash cap. To fire the grenade, unscrew the green knob and pull, after 5 seconds the flash cap will fire the detonator and the grenade will explode. The grenade relies almost entirely upon blast for its effect.

3. AERIAL ACTIVITY. Enemy aerial activity to 12 May was confined to daylight recce followed by high level bombing in the early morning. At 1930 hrs 11 May 1 ME 126 with approx 4 ME 109 carried out a recce of perimeter at 9,000 ft. At 0530 on 12 May 6 bombers at 12,000 to 15,000 ft carried out a high level bombing attack on the NORTH of TOBRUK. About 20 bombs, some of which appeared to be incendiaries, were dropped, but no damage was reported. At 1500 hrs on 12 May, 46 enemy aircraft attacked TOBRUK and southern banks of the harbour. During the night 12/13 May, THERMOS bombs were dropped on the north side of the harbour, and 50 have been located.

4. OWN SECTOR: at 2130 hrs on 12 May, the "BUSH" arty shelled the head of the wadi GERRIULA for 30 minutes. This was followed by movt of MT in the wadi area held by the enemy. At first light on 13 May a patrol from NERO, with supporting troops, attacked the enemy positions astride the BARDIA rd and along the western slopes of the WADI BELGASSEM. Owing to an unfortunate series of incidents, their efforts were not successful. Features were the rescue of two Carrier crews by the third Carrier under severe fire from MG and A/Tk guns, and the reliability of the BREW LMGs which did not sustain one stoppage during the course of the action. Our casualties were 1 offr 1 OR killed; 1 offr and 7 ORs wounded.

5. WIRELESS NEWS: HERR GOSS, Hitler's chief deputy has landed by parachute in SCOTLAND. He stated that he landed in England as that country is the only place where NAZI agents cannot reach him. In Abyssinia, 2 colns, one of INDIANS moving from the NORTH and one of SOUTH AFRICANS moving from the SOUTH are 20 miles apart. Prisoners have been taken. 9 enemy aircraft shot down in CYRENAICA. The Bomber Comd carried out extensive raids over MANNHEIM, COLOGNE, OSTEND. Much damage and many fires being caused. All our aircraft returned. The Coastal Comd attacked DUNKIRK, BOULOGNE 1 plane failed to return.

J. H. WILTON.

IO TINT.

2/438m War Diary
Appendix No. 32

TINT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 20.

(to 1900 hrs - 14 May 41).

1. GENERAL: The Strat/R of 12 May reported that three small mixed enemy cols were advancing into EGYPT via SOFAFI (possibly ABAR ADU SAFAFI, approx 20 miles SOUTH of BUG BUG). Our fwd tps are in contact with the enemy units in the vicinity of SOFAFI. The air report of 13 May indicates that movt from SOLLUM across to BUG BUG ceased after Hurricane attacks. All movt south eastward above escarpment HALFAYA and SOFAFI has ceased.

Last night H M Ships bombarded GAZALA NORTH and SOUTH L G. The 3 Cruiser Sqn also heavily bombarded DERNIA L G. 2 Tps 2/12 Fd Regt were in action in the Salient yesterday, and carried out a successful shoot on enemy mortar posns.

During the past 5 days air operations have been considerably hampered by sandstorms in the WEST RN DESERT and LIBYA. The following is a brief summary of operations carried out despite adverse conditions:-

"Heavy bombers have carried out attacks on the shipping in BENGHASI Harbour and enemy aircraft and installations on the aerodromes at BENINA, BARCE, DERNIA and GAZALA on 3 nights. Enemy MT convoys which were moving at night and using lights on the roads between BENGHASI and TOBRUK were also attacked. The medium bomber squadrons have carried out numerous attacks on enemy aerodromes, damaging aircraft on the ground. Long range recce aircraft have recced as far afield as MALTA and EL AGHEILA. Fighter aircraft, including a South African Squadron, have carried out offensive patrols and protected our shipping. During the period under review, 10 enemy aircraft have been destroyed by fire and many others damaged. On 12 May a total of 22 sorties were carried out by Hurricanes and fighter Blenheims against advancing enemy cols with such effect, that by 1800 hrs their advance was stopped".

2. GROUND ACTIVITY: The enemy arty continued their ineffective shelling on the areas of 2/23 and 2/48 BNS, NE of the Salient. Two of his guns seemed to be firing from the vicinity of the Water Tower. A number of mortar bombs were also fired on the 2/48 BN area. The 2/23 BN posns North of the DERNIA rd came in for particular attention on 14 May.

An enemy bty posn has been located at approx 39724369. At 1655 hrs, small parties of the enemy were observed in the areas 39764350, 39704330 and 39734348 and were dispersed by small arms fire of 2/23 BN.

3. AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 1447 hrs 12 May 8 J U 88's, 30 J U 87's and 2 M E 109's carried out a dive-bombing and H G attack on TOBRUK harbour and South shore harbour. H M S "Ladybird" was sunk after sustaining two direct hits. The ship's gunners fought gallantly even after ship had been hit and one E A is claimed by the forward gun crew. Four 3.7 inch A A guns and A A equipment were damaged - three E A were brought down and a further six were hit. At midnight 12/13 May two unidentified E A carried out high-level bombing from a height of 12,000 ft. A number of bombs were dropped North of TOBRUK, but no damage has been reported. It has been reported that a number of Thermos Bombs were dropped in an area just North of the town. At 1805 hrs 13 May, 1 H E 126 and 2 M E 109 carried out a recce over TOBRUK at a height of 9,000 to 11,000 ft. At 1900 hrs 13 May 1 J U 88 flew at 2,000 ft over the sea. When fired upon, the aircraft fired a two star red-green light.

4. OWN SECTOR: Carrier patrol from our right flanking Bn on 13 May penetrated to BIR GHERSA area where small party of enemy were seen about area 41854146. Enemy retreated under fire from our Carriers and joined a larger group of estimated strength 200/300 (area 419413). Enemy quickly dispersed under BREN MG fire. The patrol then withdrew under accurate arty and A/tk fire. At least 3 guns (probably 75 mm) and A/Tk guns and mortars are in this area. Little activity has been reported on our area to-day. In the early morning 5 recce planes flew over, 2 at 0216 and 3 at 0745. Movt of enemy was reported around the abandoned tks and these were engaged by our arty situated at the rd block. The F O O of the R H A reported the shelling as "jolly fine".

J. H. WILTON. IO. TINT.

2/13 Bn War Diary
Appendix No: 10

TINT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 21.

OWN SECTOR. During the night 14/15 May, one of H I Ships bombarded the enemy A A guns east of the perimeter. 60 6" shells were hurtled into the posn thought to be occupied by this bty and although the enemy did not return the fire and give any chance of flast spotting, it is considered that the bombardment was successful. During the same night, one of the abandoned I tks near the BARDIA rd was removed by the enemy.

The area South of the BARDIA rd and for approx 2,000 yds east of the perimeter was extensively patrolled throughout yesterday. n/c was seen on the rd near head of WADI BILG-SAM about 1000 hrs and 2/3 enemy were observed near Trig 140, area 425419, but otherwise no sign of the enemy was seen. There is some low ground in area 422419 where bushes 10-12 ft high are growing, and which affords good cover for men and vehicles. A close recce of this BN area was carried out by BA this morning.

GENERAL: Our arty and M Gs continue to harrass the enemy considerably. There were several attacks on the Western perimeter and MINDAUUAR salient during night 15/16 May. Several attacks were supported by 2 or 3 enemy tks, but the determined action of our own tps repulsed the enemy with considerable losses while our own casualties were very slight. The enemy ground attacks have been decreasing in scale and there is now an apparent lack of co-ordination. At the same time our active patrolling and continual harassing action has been a constant source of trouble to the enemy. The situation at last light on 15 May in the SOLIUM area was that our tps were on a general line SOLIUM, MUSAD, WAIR WAFID, 507375. (A line running approx east and west for 12 miles) Approx 400 prisoners had been taken and at least 6 enemy tks destroyed.

GROUND ACTIVITY. A patrol from 2/13 Bn moved out on 14 May from their right flank 350 yds into the salient and dug themselves in and are still holding the ground gained. Arty fire knocked out M G posts at 40124281 and destroyed 2 dumps in the WADI near R. 3. A number of enemy withdrew in disorder. Two fighting patrols from 2/12 Bn went fwd at first light 15 May and laid up about 300 yds out while our arty registered and concentrated their fire on the enemy. They then went fwd a distance of approx 2,000 yds from 'Red line' killing 3 and wounding 2 of 20 m n BRDA crew at 39684357. Enemy sec posts in WADIS South of BARDIA rd were mopped up, enemy discarding clothing as they fled. Many enemy were killed and wounded. Our pls were unable to maintain the speed of the pursuit and our casualties are 7 wounded.

At 0236 hrs 16 May, the enemy attacked on front of 18 C.V. The attack was repulsed without penetration by the enemy.

At 2200 hrs, 2/10 Bn pushed fwd Pt 173 and 2/9 Bn to pt 170 and consolidated. 2 or 3 counter attacks were launched by the enemy, supported by 4 tks, but in all cases were repelled with few casualties to ourselves. A party of 60 ITALIANS led by a group of special wire-cutting engr tps, made an attack on S. 15 and between S. 10 and S. 11. All the attackers were either killed or captured. Two portable flame-throwers were also captured.

A selected patrol from 20 Inf Bde stalked and knocked out one med tk with an S T grenade. 3 Bredas and 1 field gun in the rear of enemy fwd tps.

GERMAN METHODS: This is an account of an attack by GERMAN parachute tps on the bridge at CORINTH (GREECE): "About 0615 hrs 26 Apr an intensive low-level bombing attack began over an area of about 2 miles circumference on either side of the Bridge. About 0650 hrs, this was accompanied by attacks with small cannon and M Gs from fighter aircraft. During this latter period about 2,000 parachutists were dropped into the centre of the area, some actually falling into the canal itself. They were dropped from a height of about 200 ft, the parachute appearing to have some special device for making it open rapidly as small puffs of smoke or white powder were seen above the top of each parachute as it opened. In most cases, each parachutist had one or two parachutes accompanying him carrying machine guns and amm. The enemy were therefore able to produce intensive M G fire within about 2 minutes after the parachutists had been dropped. Most of us have expected our anti-parachute detts would be able to shoot up parachutists at leisure as they dropped from a height, but GERMAN technique at CORINTH did NOT make this possible".

(1).

ENEMY EQUIPMENT: It is reported that the enemy has been known to use a "shaving stick" bomb which explodes when unscrewed. Exact details of the description and working of the bomb are lacking, but it is said to resemble a shaving stick or an empty film container.

Any person observing such bombs lying about or being dropped, should report the fact immediately to this H Q.

AIR ACTIVITY: Heavy bombers have again made nightly attacks on BENCHASI Harbour and the aerodromes at BERCA, BENINA and DERNA. Large fires were started in the Barracks at BENGHASI and DERNA on night of 13/14 May. "Spikes" were laid on the aerodromes at EL ADEM and GAMBUT. Very successful attacks were made by our heavy bombers on aerodromes in GREECE on night 13/14 May.

Our heavy bombers were again active against aerodromes in CYRENAICA and enemy occupied GREECE. 7 E A confirmed as being destroyed and a number of others damaged. Enemy M T which was withdrawing Westwards as a result of our Army's push was attacked by our medium bombers and fighters. These 'ground strafing' and bombing attacks resulted in 100 M T of the enemy being destroyed. Fighter aircraft also maintained protective patrols over our advancing troops during the course of which 2 M R 109's were shot down.

At 1330 hrs 15 May 15 E A dive-bombed SOLLUM barracks. At this time, it was believed that the enemy troops were still in occupation. At 1830 hrs 15 May, CAPUZZO was reported to be deserted.

H M S 'SVANA' shot down 1 E A during raid at 1447 hrs. The Cruiser squadron which carried out the bombardment of DERNA L G during night 13/14 May was attacked by J U 88's. 2 E A were shot down and 2 damaged. The ship sustained neither casualties nor damage.

USE OF S T A/Tk GRENADE: The grenade was thrown from approx 10 yds and hitting a GERMAN Mk I (7 tons) tank at the base of the turret, blew a hole in the armour about 12" square.

Placed on the tracks of a GERMAN Mk IV (22 tons) tank and exploded with a fuze no apparent damage was caused.

The following points should be noted for promulgation;

- a. The S T Grenade is most effective against light tanks,
- b. Medium and heavy tanks will probably be vulnerable only on the roofs, engine casing and under parts.
- c. Care must be exercised in screwing the handle into the grenade so that the handle cannot be broken off before the detonator is struck.

SECURITY: LIGHTS: Lights seen at night, possibly signals, have been reported by several Units. It is desired that when such lights are seen, that this H Q be notified immediately. Details as to time, position and results of investigation (if any) are required.

J. F. WILTON.

I. O. TINT.

(This Summary is to be given the widest publication among your men, and then DESTROYED.)

TINT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 22. (SECRET)

(from information received to 2300 hrs 17 May 41).

GENERAL: In the SOLLUM area the fighting continues in area ABU FAYRES. Our fighter patrols carried out continuous ground strafing of enemy L of C, and it is believed that 150-200 M T incl 6 staff cars, have been destroyed. The enemy disclosed a greater strength in medium tks than was originally anticipated in CAPUZZO area, and in a resulting tk battle we had some I N F tks destroyed.

Our leading tps were SOUTH of HALFAYA SIDE SULEIMAN and after what proved a successful raid, the enemy lost approx 500 POW and a considerable number of AFVs. The present posn (2000 hrs 16 May) is that our tps are holding HALFAYA with fwd elements in SOLLUM, while the mobile force is carrying out offensive harassing action from the SIDI SULEIMAN area.

Fighting continues in the MEDAUUAR salient. Contact was made with Posts S8 and S9, and they were NOT captured yesterday. Contact by our patrols during the night disclosed that our tps were still holding these areas. At 0530 hrs to-day, 2/23 BN supported by 10 I N F tks and arty, attacked posts S6 and S7. Post S6 was captured with 1 offr and 17 ORs (GERMANS). After gaining a foothold on Post S7 the attack was driven off.

From shelling reports, it would appear that the enemy is adopting the practice of moving gungs fwd at night, firing a task, and moving back before daylight - get your reports in while he is still firing.

Dets of 1 SPECIAL ENGINEER RAGRUPPIMENTO are in this area - primary task of the Engr Assault Coy of this unit is the destruction of wire obstacles by use of wire clippers and gelignite. Badge - on left upper arm is oval showing a flaming grenade with dagger, point uppermost.

A Carrier patrol from 2/28 BN intercepted 2 small enemy tks approaching from area 421417 which showed no desire to be engaged and retreated. Another patrol contacted an enemy force of 2 med tks, 5 M T, several M/Cs and at least 30 men in area 418414. Patrol engaged enemy from 600 yds, but was forced to withdraw under fire from tks and arty. Later, another Carrier patrol attacked a small group of 8 to 12 men in area 422416. Patrol was again driven off by a larger force with arty and A/tk weapons. A further patrol engaged enemy in same area, causing dispersion and casualties.

2/10 BN carried out active patrolling during night 15/16 May. One patrol of 1 NCO and 6 ORs moved out on a bearing of 329 degs from R10 for approx 400 yds. Hearing voices, they moved to R8 to pick up cross reference. Voices were identified as enemy, and the patrol after moving fwd saw 20/30 men digging at approx 500 yds NORTH from R.8. The party was using wheel barrows, and MT was heard moving up to the working party from behind a ridge. The patrol ran into fixed line M G fire from an M G post established 500 yds on a bearing 347 degs mag from R.8. The patrol skirted fixed lines and returned. As this was a recce patrol the enemy working party was not engaged.

GS INCENDIARY BOMB. This bomb is used by R A F in raids on enemy territory. Weight, 4 lbs. There is a small charge which is not used for demolition, but for igniting the thermite filling which in turn ignites the magnesium casing. On the other end of this bomb, is a tin casing with the striker mechanism plus a small safety lever. Any person discovering one of these bombs should, on picking it up, catch hold of it by the tin casing and NOT by the iron body, also holding the bomb in a horizontal position, at the same time pressing the safety lever. The overall length of a live bomb is 2 ft.

AIR ACTIVITY: At 1916 hrs 16 May, 2 JU 88 carried out a high level bombing attack on the Harbour. 12 bombs dropped on NORTH POINT, but no serious damage was reported.

At approx 2030 hrs 1 EA Mgd ML ADLM sector of perimeter, one offr of 2/46 BN was killed.

0410-0540 to-day 8 planes dive bombed SOUTH SHORE HARBOUR. Attack was carried out by single planes at intervals with heavy HE small HE and incendiary bombs. Bombing was indiscriminate and did NOT appear to have any particular objective.

(2).

TRANSLATED EXTRACTS of Diary of Oberst-Leutnant GUSTAV POHNAT, Late Comd
8 MG BN (5 Lt Motorised Div) - Killed at TOBRUK 14 Apr 41.

1941.

- 27 Feb. 1600 hrs. TRIPOLI in sight. Some magnetic mines near ALICANTE. No damage. One ITALIAN cruiser which was to accompany us torpedoed and sinks with 450 men.
- 2 Mar. 0730 hrs. Move. I go ahead to NOFILIA via SIRTE. Luncheon with 3 Recce Unit. Recce with GENERAL STREICH to prepare the action at MARBLM ARCH. 22 points mined by the ITALIANS.
- 3 Mar. Last water station at NOFILIA. At MARBLM ARCH bn prepares for defensive action. March held up at various mined points. Terrible rd. Walk round posn. Allotment of a/tk (panzerjäger) and AA.
- 13 Mar. Sandstorm. Lt SCHOLLMANN advances with 1 Anti tk pl. Occupation of MARADA. Pitch black night. Sentry at fuel dump lost as from 2300 hrs.
- 14 Mar. Worst sandstorm. Everything covered with sand. Tents collapse. Lt GOEDECKEMEYER with detachment SCHWABERIN. Start for propaganda march to MURZUK.
- 15 Mar. At the house of the Mufti of MARADA a "shilling skocker" episode. An Arab pedlar fires a pistol at the Mufti and his guests and is then shot by the German sentry. Trouble with 6 Coy, Lt HESSE.
- 16 Mar. Enemy low flying attack on M T coln in the morning. Casualties. Long range recce by Lt LEHNOFF 150 kms into the desert.
- 18 Mar. Two enemy fighters shot down in front of our position.
- 19 Mar. One enemy bomber shot down over our position. 5 Tank Regt arrives minus 12 tanks which were burnt out at NAPLES when loading on the "LEVERKUSEN". Div Comd attacked by British Bomber when starting from MARADA, pilot wounded.
- 22 Mar. 7 Coy leaves for MARADA. 24 hrs march. Attack by British Armoured Car patrol; three lorries set on fire.
- 24 Mar. EL AGHEILA enterprise. Two of our tanks blown up by mines. Three killed. AGHEILA occupied. British escaped.
- 25 Mar. Inspect posn of bn with GENERAL STREICH. Tank durrries.
- 27 Mar. Terrible sandstorm. Low flying attack on AGHEILA.
- 28 Mar. Move and take up osn 14 km from AGHEILA without being disturbed and dig in. In the afternoon SANTA MARIA take up osn. Very polite people.
- 29 Mar. Low flying air attack on FRANK'S Coy. The Bn's first dead in AFRICA. In many ration boxies only the top layer is tinned food. Underneath stones, sand and wood shavings. Italian corruption and sabotage.
- 30 Mar. Inspection of mine fields in the Salt mine with SANTA MARIA. Took wrong turning and went straight into our own minefields.
- 31 Mar. Order to attack. 605 anti-tk unit at EL BREGA. Outflanking movt in the SOUTH by 3 Recce Unit. STUKAS again attack our own line.
- 2 Apr. Quiet night. 3 Recce Unit arrives and takes over recce duties. British Armoured patrol repulsed. 10 km North British rearguard and minefields. Tank attack. Expect first resistance at AGEDABIA. Strong resistant. 2 Coy takes the place. First casualties. Defence North and East of AGEDABIA with 2 M G Bn.
- 4 Apr. Along track Eastwards towards AGEDABIA. The beginning of a strenuous march through the desert.
- 5 Apr. In the desert we meet elements of BRESCIA DIVISION. Incredible track. Everything is stuck. In the darkness tanks run over 9 motor cyclists. We lose our way. 0200 hrs halt and rest nowhere near track or path. Recce and search for track at dawn. March remains strenuous. Very hot. Repeated falling out of vehicles. Lost in the lonesome desert. 1800 hrs aerodrome BEN GAMINA. One part was to be flown to MECHILI in JUNKERS. This is cancelled as MECHILI has meanwhile been occupied by the English. Adv on MECHILI. Fuel runs short. 5 Tank Regt gets stuck.

(2).

(3).

1941.

- 6 Apr. Detestable march on mine infested track at BEN GANINA. Lt HECKER and Pioneers hit mines. Casualties. At 0430 hrs ROM-EL bellows and chases us forward out of touch with the battalion across the stoney desert. Only 10 vehs with us. With these against the rear of the enemy at DERNA. Join up with Lt BERANDT and PRINCE BENTHEIM with captured material. Arrive at the Rocknest in front of Derna.
- 7 Apr. Several alarms in the Rocknest. Everyone sees and hears Ghosts. Some shots at dawn. British aircraft start up. We find the lost portion of the captured transport under Sgt Maj BORCHARDT on the rd. Reunion in the first Rocknest. All there. Attack on DERNA aerodrome. Wonderful success but shelled by the enemy arty. Retreat. Enemy tanks. We are discovered and remainder of enemy arrive later.
- 8 Apr. Unit advances on DERNA - no enemy. Odd prisoners keep on arriving. Heavy sandstorm coming up. German aircraft lands, makes contact and takes mail. DERNA clear of enemy. BR SCIA Div approached from the West. Ordered to move to TOBRUK at 2100 hrs. General ROMMEL pleased with out success. Dead tired, night march, handing over of prisoners and captured material.
- 9 Apr. 0300 hrs reach TIMINI without resistance. 1400 hrs advance on TOBRUK. Had recce - 3 Recce unit comes up against British posn at KM 30 and is being overwhelmed by 3 btys. Casualties. Low flying attacks by Hurricanes. Digging in. Rocky soil. Cold night.
- 10 Apr. 0800 hrs the deployed Bn advances on TOBRUK. Arty does not come up. 5 Coy carries out recce under fire from British armoured cars. Forward it goes irresistably. At KM 16 bridge blows up just in front of our point. Simultaneously strong enemy arty fire. BRESCIA Div goes into action. GENERAL VON PRITZWITZ killed.
- 11 Apr. Posn at KM 16 before TOBRUK to be cleared at by 0300 hrs. RV at KM 20 for an outflanking movement to the South. 0800 hrs move South via ACROMA with 5 Tank Regt. Again under orders of Genl STREICK. 2 MG Bn cuts off TOBRUK to the South East. 8 MB Bn and 5 Tank Regt attack from the North East. Disastrous terrain. No cover whatever.
- 12 Apr. Sandstorm. Heavy increase in casualties. 5 Tank Regt still attacks several times without arty or aircraft support. As they move up they are already attacked by British bombers. Retiring movement along our posn. Our own tanks nearly run over us. In addition to this we receive the whole weight of the British arty fire. Disgusting posn. No enemy at BARDIA. Occupied by 3 Recce Unit. 1600 hrs renewed attack by 5 Tank Regt fails at a great distance when they come under heavy arty fire. The tanks retreat and we cease fire. Considerable casualties. 2nd Lieut KAATZ killed at my side. Digging in under heavy fire 200 metres from the enemy position. Pierce British raids. Situation deteriorates.
- 13 Apr. Situation unaltered. The first German recce aircraft appears.

OWN SECTOR: A patrol (1 offr and 27 ORs) which moved out to the enemy posn astride the BARDIA rd during the night 16/17 May found the enemy still in the posn - apparently in numbers. The enemy lightly shelled the area in vicinity of the Blockhouse at intervals during 17 May. The enemy are occupying the mound at 42484247 (slightly east of wadi WEDDAN) as an OP.

NEWS: BENGASI AND DERNA heavily raided by RAF. 3 enemy planes down. Prisoners at TOBRUK, 260 GERMAN and ITALIAN. 3 Bredas, 1 how and 1 tk destroyed. 16 German planes land at DAMASCUS. GERMANS bombed BASRA.

J. H. WILTON, IC. TINT.

(Please ensure publication to all men and then destroy).

20 May 41.

T I N T I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y
(Compiled to 2400 hrs 19 May 41)

1. GENERAL

(1) Yesterday (17) was quiet after the counter-attacks during the earlier part of the morning. The situation was slightly confused as our tps were pinned down by mortar and MG fire on the posns which they had reached.

Post 6 was successfully evacuated at 2300 hrs.

Reports from the frontier area indicate that the majority of the enemy's AFVs are in this area. There was vigorous enemy patrolling along the line of the frontier wire during most of yesterday (17) afternoon. The RAF fighters inflicted further severe casualties on enemy convoys, staff cars and DRs. The enemy air activity was largely confined to attempts at interception of our fighters.

Three enemy convoys sailing to TRIPOLI have been attacked from the air, three ships being badly damaged - one an 8,000 ton vessel. TRIPOLI has been bombed on several nights during the past week and aircraft have also laid mines in and around the harbour.

(2) At 2000 hrs 18th four enemy columns attacked our tps at HALFAYA and SIDI SULEIMA N. The enemy withdrew and were attacked by our bombers in 4 waves of 7 aircraft. It is believed that heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Although there was considerable enemy movement observed on the western perimeter at approx 2000 hrs, no attack eventuated. It is probably that reliefs were being effected in enemy fwd areas.

18 May 2 enemy columns totalling 175 all arms including 75 tanks crossed wire heading for SIDI SULEIMAN and HALFAYA. Our tanks engaged the enemy but were forced back slowly. Our armed forces attacked enemy flank from SOUTH. At 2000 hrs the enemy were withdrawing with 4 formations of our bombers bombing and machine gunning. Several enemy AFVs seemed to be abandoned. RAF again attacked enemy L of C although less movement was apparent than on previous two days.

2. GENERAL (TOBRUK)

(1) Ground Activity

A patrol of 18 CAV Regt encountered approx 100 enemy digging in an area overlooking our lines at 39974388 to 39944384. The patrol engaged the enemy and inflicted considerable casualties. The enemy then withdrew - our casualties being 1 Officer killed and 1 OR wounded. One OR was killed. Active patrolling was carried out during the night of 17th by units of 18 Inf Bde. A patrol of 1 NCO & 10 ORs from 10 Bn moved out at 2210 and encountered enemy MG fire. A party of 30 enemy were observed moving across the front of our patrol who opened fire.

Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy while ours were two wounded.

Another small patrol of 10 Bn encountered an enemy patrol and working party at 2300 hrs. 20 of enemy were engaged by rifle fire and with grenades. It is considered that some casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and our patrol withdrew without mishap.

A patrol of 1 Offr and 3 ORs from 2/9 Bn located 7 GERMAN MMG and light BREDAS about 40034295.

At 1300 hrs 18th an arty OP in BIANC area observed enemy in some entrenchments. During the ranging by our arty, an enemy tp carrier appeared and hoisted a red flag. A padre and stretcher bearers alighted from the vehicle and proceeded to remove the dead and wounded. Our shelling ceased during this operation.

(2) A patrol from 2/15 Bn encountered 30/40 enemy. Several casualties were inflicted on the enemy and one German prisoner taken. Our casualties were 3 wounded.

3. AIR ACTIVITY

At 1550 hrs 17 May 20 JU 87 and 6 ME 109 dive-bombed and MG the eastern distillery. A large number of bombs were dropped and a few fell near the distillery, but the remainder were widely distributed to the South. 3 EA were brought down - one by Trig C 307 one by RAF ground defences and one by AA. 4 additional EA were also hit. No damage or casualties sustained.

3. (CTD)

-2-

At 0700 hrs 18th one JU 88 carried out a high-level bombing attack on the South side of the harbour. After dropping two bombs at 18000 ft, the aircraft dived to 8,000 ft to escape damage from the close bursts of the AA fire. No damage was done.

At 1308 hrs 18 May 1 JU 88 and 2 HE 111 approached in a loose formation at height of 18000 to 20000 ft. On approaching NORTH POINT the aircraft split up and attacked TOBRUK & SOUTH shore simultaneously. In this high level bombing attack 8 bombs were dropped, but no damage was reported.

At 0500 hrs 19th 3 JU 88 carried out a high level bombing attack on the NORTH & EAST of TOBRUK. 20 HE and a number of incendiaries, some of which fell in an area SW of the town, were dropped. Two vehs were destroyed near an old ITALIAN hospital, but no casualties were sustained.

At 0540 one unidentified EA at 14000 ft dropped 4 bombs in TOBRUK area. No damage or casualties were reported.

4. ENEMY METHODS

Attached as Appdx "A" are notes on treatment to be expected by British prisoners of war in German hands.

5. OWN SECTOR

During the night 17/18 May much movement of MT was heard between 0030 and 0115, probably West of wadi WEDDAN.

Each day, between 0600-0900 and 1900-2030 an old ruin at 42484247 is occupied by 3/4 men and this is obviously an OP.

Considerable movement of single vehs has been seen North of the BARDIA rd whilst movement fwd of our wire by our patrols is usually followed by a M/C going East on that road. The cyclist evidently remains in observation near an abandoned "I" Tk.

This afternoon 2 Carriers under comd of Sgt LODGE moved to the Western branch of head of Wadi WEDDAN (42474244). A number of stone bldgs are in the wadi on the EAST side and four 2" mortars opened fire from there at a range of 120 yds.

On the crest of the ridge between the WEDDAN and BELGASSEM (approx 42494241-2) about 6 men manned MG posns and opened fire with 3 LMGs at short range. The Carriers returned the fire, and were engaged by enemy arty fire and returned.

The patrol moved out again later, South of the BARDIA rd. A motor cyclist left abandoned "I" Tk (about 2800 yds out and South of the rd) at high speed.

When the Carriers drew level with the Tk (at about 42594213) they came under fire from two 2 pdr guns sited South of the Rd. What appeared to be a mine field extended from the rd North to approx 300 yds South of the Old BARDIA rd here.

The patrol turned South along this minefield and then proceeded towards the perimeter, under fire for about 1,000 yds from A/Tk guns. During the return journey, shelling in the BELGASSEM area was taking place and no firing came from that direction.

J.H. WILTON Lieut
I.O. TINT.

WHAT YOU MAY EXPECT FROM THE GERMANS
IF TAKEN PRISONER OF WAR (W.Os & NCOs)

1. The prisoner may expect, and will get, a rough time but providing he is reasonably strong, he will in time be able to adapt himself to his new conditions.
2. The German will first try starvation and probably long marches, the main object being to weaken the prisoner and break his morale. Our men must be very careful at this stage, because at the first sign of resistance or breach of discipline, the Germans will shoot to kill.
3. The officers are separated from the men, but W.Os and NCOs should be shown the same respect as in normal times. Only by doing this, can prestige and organisation be maintained.
4. When being searched, try and retain your small kit. The Germans issue none of these things, and consequently towel, soap, razors etc are of great value. If a man can keep himself clean shaven, he can still feel himself a soldier.
5. The prisoner will find himself conveyed to a Prison Camp, where he will be registered and possibly interrogated.
6. Registration
Names and numbers are taken, also home addresses and occupations. Photos are taken also finger prints and in due course copies of your particulars are sent to the British War Office and to the International Red Cross at GENEVA. Particular care must be taken while being registered. The enemy are searching for information - DO NOT give him anything but your name and number.
7. At the first opportunity get rid of everything in writing and also your English or Egyptian money. You will be ordered to give up the latter on promise of being re-imbursed in German marks. This promise is never kept. The 'Boche' needs money very badly, so give him nothing.
8. Food will be very short at a registration camp, but may be slightly increased when sent to a working camp.
9. Propaganda will be used in plenty and various ways:-
 - a. German guards speaking good English will give out the latest news whilst in conversation with. These are clever, so be careful what you say, as it will be recounted to higher German authorities.
 - b. Daily bulletins will be published, giving distorted accounts of the bombing of ENGLAND, British shipping losses, and the superiority of the Luftwaffe over the RAF.
 - c. A weekly paper is published especially for you called "The Camp". Treat it as you would treat "Lord Haw Haw" of Bremen. The object of this paper, although written in a friendly and fatherly manner, is to dishearten you and bring you to the German way of thinking. It also gives some friendly advices etc, re-escaping - "Although escaping is an honourable art etc etc, it is absolutely impossible" Here follows numerous and unsurmountable obstacles. The German stresses this point, because he knows there are loopholes which he has not got control of.
 - d. Spies are placed among you in the form of Germans dressed as English soldiers. These men have a very good knowledge of soldiering and speak perfect English. Be very careful of your next-door neighbour. If he should appear to be even slightly pro-GERMAN, avoid him. Do not use violence as it will only be visited back on you.
10. You will be allowed to write home, but do not expect a reply for at least six months. The German is in no hurry to oblige you. It is very trying to receive no news from home, but remember - "No news is good news"
11. Times will be very hard, but by keeping cheerful and refusing to be depressed, you will have a great moral effect on your enemies and will shew them that ENGLAND IS INVINCIBLE.

No. 24. 2/43Bn War Diary.
27 May 41.
Appendix No: 36

TINT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(SECRET: Give widest publication to all ranks and then destroy)

LOCAL - GENERAL: The post at the rd block on el ADEM rd was attacked by a Lt tk during the night 19/20 May.

GERMAN medium shells, probably 150 mm, have been found at approx 40354316. Particulars of any shelling, particularly with this equipment, of our area should be reported to this H Q as soon as possible.

Night 26/27 May was generally quiet. There was slight M T movt on the front of 26 Inf Bde on the escarpment and on the front of 24 Inf Bde, but there has been considerable reduction in M T movt during the past 48 hrs.

A Carrier patrol of 2/32 BN moved out 2,500 yds yesterday afternoon, but did NOT see or contact the enemy.

Unoccupied enemy diggings in areas 406421 and 405420 were found to be camouflaged to show occupation. Probable enemy O P at 40434241.

A patrol of 2/28 BN was unable to penetrate more than 500 yds from the wire on account of fixed line M G and A/tk fire coming from the direction of post R 7. Tracer am was used. On 26 May about 40 M T were engaged in area 401419 and hits were registered by our arty. Another group of approx 50 M T in area 398423 was also engaged. During the shoot 3 enemy 105 mm guns in area 40104211 opened fire, but were soon silenced by our arty. The F O O patrol was followed in some distance by 3 heavy tks.

SOLLUM AREA: Although our tps were forced back on 18 May, our armd forces attacked the enemy's flank from the south and he withdrew, harassed by 4 formations of our bombers. Several enemy A F Vs were abandoned. Our Inf tks knocked out 5 German tks and our arty 3 German tks on 22 May.

AIR ACTIVITY.

THERMOS bombs were dropped in area 40784344 and to the SW of there during the night 19/20 May. During the night 21/22 May some were dropped around point 163 (404428) and south of that point.

Our heavy bombers carried out a large scale raid on BENGHASI.

An enemy tanker has been severely damaged off PANTELLEIRA by our med brs. HURRICANES attacked and destroyed a number of M T between TOBRUK and CAPUZZO. Our aircraft have been operating on an increased scale against enemy aircraft and transport etc in IRAQ. One petrol post containing one million gallons was completely destroyed.

TOBRUK: On night 21/22 May fighting patrols from 2/12 BN went 1,000 yds out for the purpose of obtaining info regarding the enemy and of mopping up small dets. They were supported by 3 Carriers and arty, and came in contact with the enemy and located many M G and A/tk posns. We lost 1 killed and 16 wounded (some slightly) and one carrier. Heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy and at least two M Gs were knocked out. On 23 May under cover of the sandstorm, a patrol from the same BN recovered 5 2" ITALIAN mortars and 2 BREDA M Gs from an area about 39734322.

SECURITY: Pay books must NOT have the unit entered in them (inspect cover, page 1, place coln and slip giving blood group particulars). The "place" at which payment is made should be entered as "In the Field". All troops are warned about the danger of carrying papers and letters which may give their unit or information concerning our operations generally when in or near the front line.

ITALIAN PORTABLE FLAME-THROWERS:

The container holds about 3 gallons of DIESELENE and works with an air pressure of 100 lbs per sq inch. The igniting is done electrically and pre-heating is NOT necessary.

The flame is thrown a maximum distance of 20 yds, but the extreme heat effect is felt for a maximum of 30 yds; it is 10 yds in diameter at the extreme range. It will therefore be seen that the range is very short and the effect can be only very local. The flame will only burn continuously for 30 secs, but if intermittently as will usually be the case, it will last somewhat longer. Range and accuracy will always depend on the strength and direction of the wind. Even if protected by asbestos clothing, the operator must get extremely hot and will always be at a disadvantage regarding both comfort and easy movement,

(1).

TINT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Cont'd) (2.)

The flame-thrower, even if protected by tks, should be easily dealt with by all troops NOT in a direct line with the flame by engaging him with rifle and automatic fire. Troops in the line of the flame should, if possible, take cover and use the asbestos sheets provided for the purpose. Flame throwers from tks, although with longer range and duration, are also very vulnerable. Fire should be directed at the trailer. Destroy both weapon and operator before the apparatus can be brought into play.

EXTRACTS FROM AN ACCOUNT OF EVENTS AT CORINTH CANAL - 26 Apr 41.

This last trip from NAFLION to the CANAL had been sufficient to convince me that movt in daylight on the road was no longer reasonable, owing to the intensity of the bombing and ground strafing. I found Lieut J. T. TYSON, R.M.... The only orders he had received were that the bridge would NOT fall into enemy hands; he expected that the N Z Eng's would do the actual demolition. With him I carried out a recce of the CANAL. During this time the GERMANS carried out considerable aerial recce but did NOT bomb or machine gun to any extent. At 2030 hrs that evening a very intense attack was carried out from the air. This I now know was a rehearsal for the next day. About 20 machines of a type larger than dive-bombers came in from the north about 300 ft up, bombing and machine gunning and soon both heavy and light AA guns stopped firing. The attack lasted about a quarter of an hour. I went to bed. Lieut TYSON and I awoke and thought we heard planes and at 0658 hrs, the AA guns started firing and the GERMAN planes appeared. This attack was far more intense than any which had preceded it, being carried out by dive-bombers and ME 110 fighters; I estimated the number of the machines as 100. As before the AA fire was silenced in a few minutes. The strafing went on for about half an hour, then the troop carriers started to arrive. They flew in groups of three, almost wing tip to wing tip, at a height of about 300 ft. The speed at which they were able to fly was far slower than I had thought possible. Each of the outer two machines of each group dropped personnel, while the inner one dropped stores. Parachutists were dropped always where there were none of our troops. One machine landed on very rough ground beside the bridge and the troops walked out through the door; the size of this piece of ground was only about 400 yds ~~xx~~ by 200 yds.

In the areas in which the parachutists had landed all bombing and machine gunning from the air stopped, though this was NOT at once realised owing to the fact that the diving and roaring of planes over head did not diminish. All the parachutists were dropped by parachutes coloured white, but those by which stores were dropped were coloured grey, black and red. The parachutists appeared to land wholly unarmed and as they were liable to land rather heavily and some distance from the stores there seems to be a period of about 10 minutes during which they are particularly vulnerable. A number of the parachutists carried flags approx 6 ft square, coloured red, with a white circle in the centre and a black swastika most central of all. These they spread on the bonnet of any vehicle they used. Each man had a silk handkerchief, blue and white spots which was waved at their aircraft and which seemed to give immunity from attack. After landing they were prone to walk around, presumably collecting their stores, but went to ground and stayed there if fired on. Lieut TYSON began to talk of blowing up the bridge and wanted to try to reach the bridge. I was sure the attempt was beyond any hope of success. We then suggested that as the demolition had been prepared with gelignite a shot would probably be enough to set it off and this we decided to try. I climbed up on a bank and took a shot at the packet of explosive I could see strapped on to the side of the structure, using a rifle. The shot was a bad one and before I could reload I was fired on, the fire coming from a Torrey Gun I believe, as it was even more inaccurate than my own shot. I jumped off the bank and readjusted the sights, climbed up again at a spot ten yds away and scored a bull and the bridge blew up. At least a dozen GERMANS blew up with it. Almost immediately a white Verrey light was fired over us and aircraft dived and appeared to be searching us out.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY: About 50 planes were observed moving east to west outside perimeter 1600-2150 yesterday. Machines flew very low and at least one was in communication with the ground by means of flares. No bombs were dropped and no machine gunning.

J. H. WILTON. I O. TINT.

TINT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 25. Appendix No. 37

(SECRET: Give widest publication to all tps and then destroy).
(compiled to 1100 hrs on 29 May 1941).

GENERAL. At 0900 hrs 27 May the situation in the BARDIA-SOLLUM area was as follows:- At mid-day on May 26, the enemy advanced with 3 mixed cols 2 of which moved east, south of the escarpment. They were engaged by our troops, who were forced to withdraw to the 550 grid line (approx 6 miles west of ABAR ADU SAFAFI, which is approx 20 miles south of BUG BUG) at 2,000 hrs. Later in the afternoon, another enemy coln attacked our troops who were still holding-out in the HALFAYA area. These troops withdrew slightly from 526368 (approx top of HALFAYA pass), but made two counter attacks, which, however, failed to regain the ground. The following morning at 0645 hrs, they were again heavily attacked and were forced to withdraw from the HALFAYA area.

TOBRUK. The 2/28 BN reported that during the afternoon 27 May, M M G firing on posts R 32 and R 33 seemed to be coming from 2200 yds on a bearing 235 degrees from R 32. Our Mortars and "Bush" arty replied and the hostile machine gunning promptly ceased. At 1915 hrs, 27 May, 8 enemy M T were observed de-bussing troops in the area 39534307. They were engaged by our arty. Heavy enemy defensive fire was brought down by the enemy on the MEDANUAR sector. This was probably brought about by a patrol from 18 CAV who went out and drove a number of ITALIANS from their fwd posns. At 0630/0720 hrs on 28 May 25 M T incl AFVs were seen descending the escarpment at 423409. At approx the same time, 104 R H A reported that 100 tps and 12 M T were in the vicinity of the BARDIA rd 5/600 yds from the perimeter and were being engaged and they were dispersed.

During night 28/29 May there was some light shelling of posts R 26 and R 33.

AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 1920 hrs 28 May two M E 110s made a shallow dive bombing attack on the A A D. They glided out of the sun with engines switched off and dropped about 8 bombs. No damage was done. At 1035 hrs 28 May, two M E 109s approached the harbour, but were driven off by heavy A A fire.

ITALIAN METHODS. An offr P O W from 7 BERSAGLIERE Regt reports that in his unit, patrols going out are instructed to build rock cairns on reaching their objective so that offrs can observe (through binoculars) and ascertain whether or not the patrol did its job. Report any new cairns in NO MANS LAND forthwith.

SECURITY. Documents for dumping with baggage should be ready for destruction at the shortest notice. In no case should they be dumped unless arrangements have been made for their destruction. Much valuable information has been obtained by G S I from captured private documents such as letters, diaries etc. Private correspondence should therefore be destroyed and never dumped with personal baggage. Official documents should NOT, under any circumstances, be included in personal baggage.

THIS SECTOR. Probable enemy O Ps are at squares 406418 and 405419. 60 to 70 enemy in well dispersed sangars in area 403420, and at least 5 gun or mortar emplacements in area 404421. Enemy digging in area 401424. The enemy hold posns in strength in vicinity of pt 183 at areas 402423 and 401424. These posns are strongly held by night, but only small parties are left in sangars during daylight.

GAS:--- There will always be a great difficulty in discovering the enemy's intention to use gas because the essence of its successful use is surprise and he will take all possible steps to conceal his intentions. We don't know a great deal of GERMAN shell markings, so such markings should always be reported, and marked shells or pieces of shells, fwded to this HQ. Watch for and report anything in the following connection:

- Has the enemy been seen wearing respirators?
- In the case of GERMAN tps, is the container of the respirator screwed into the face piece or is it separate in the carrier with the screw-cap in place? The GERMAN tropical container and respirator are kept apart, and only screwed together shortly before the respirator is to be used.
- Have ITALIAN troops been found issued with GERMAN respirators?
- Have ITALIAN troops been issued with new material for personal decontamination, such as the GERMAN LOSANTIN tablets; GERMAN protective sheets etc.
- Any lilac or pale mauve colour patches or gorget patches.

FLAME THROWERS.

Some details of these weapons are known/ During the last war the GERMANS developed and used

- a. A portable type carried on the soldier's back, capable of projecting a jet of flame about 20 yds for a period of about 1 ~~month~~ ^{minute}.
- b. A semi-stationary type, consisting of several cylindrical tanks of oil which could project a jet of flame 40 to 50 yds.

The ITALIANS favour both the knapsack and trailer type, the latter drawn by a tank or truck.

GERMANY has continued to experiment with these weapons, and had developed a larger type mounted on tanks or armoured vehicles; particularly as an anti-tk weapon. The range is believed to be a little over 120 yds. The vehicle may be a 2 ton flame thrower waggon, carrying a heavy M G and a flame thrower coupled to the engine of the vehicle with a range of about 200 yds.

Knapsack flame throwers are believed to have sufficient heat to melt armour plate $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick, and can render concrete emplacements untenable, and power in larger models is probably greater. They are very vulnerable owing to the inflammable oil which they carry. Some of these figures may be excessive but definite information is, at the moment, lacking. There is no method of dealing with flame throwers, except that of destroying the operator or the apparatus.

Destroy both the operator and the apparatus before the apparatus can be brought into play.

TROOP CARRYING AIRCRAFT.

The first objectives will probably be aerodromes or localities which can be used as landing grounds. Parachutists will try to make good the ground so that reinforcements and their equipment can be disembarked en masse instead of being scattered.

Types of aircraft, and their speeds in still air, most likely to be used for troop carrying are:-

JUNKERS 52.	170-190 m.p.h.	14-17 men.
JUNKERS 86 and 88.	200-225 m p h.	12 men.
JUNKERS 89 and 90.	200-220 m p h.	40 men.
HEINKEL 111.	200-220 m p h.	10 men.
FOCKE-WULF, CONDOR.	200-230 m p h.	30 men.

It is stated that JUNKERS 52s have been used to tow gliders each of which has accommodation for 35 men. When towing 2 gliders the speed may be 120 m p h or less. The gliders take up positions one somewhat above, the other somewhat below, the towing plane.

The vulnerable area of these planes extends for some distance down the fuselage - in case of JUNKERS 90 and FOCKE - WULK CONDOR, nearly 20 yds. Troop carrying aircraft about to land will reduce speed and glide at about 90 miles an hour preparatory to touching down at air speeds of 50 to 60 m.p.h. Landings take place up wind, and ground speeds will be less. This table gives the distance travelled by aircraft flying at a speed of 50 m.p.h. during the time it takes a rifle bullet to reach it.

<u>Range.</u>	<u>Distance flown.</u>
100 yds.	3 yds.
200 yds.	6 yds.
300 yds.	9 yds.
400 yds.	13 yds.
500 yds.	17 yds.

Little or no deflection is required for these targets, machine guns should be given a slow sweep to and from just in front of the propeller to a point about halfway down the fuselage. The same procedure applies to gliders.

J. H. WILTON. I C. TINT.

2/43 Bn War Diary
Appendix No. 38
No. 10

TINT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 26
(from information received to 1200 hrs. 31 May 41.)

Give widest publication to tps and then DESTROY

1. AIR ACTIVITY. On 29 May upwards of 100 EA were seen over the Fortress. At 1350 hrs a raid took place by 60 planes bombing and MGing. The minesweeper SINDONIS and two lighters were sunk and No. 5 jetty damaged. An ITALIAN oil fuel tank, which was practically empty, was set on fire. Four EA were brought down by AA fire and at least four others hit. Our AA casualties were four wounded.
2. GENERAL.
 - a. In TOBRUCH, our fighting patrols continue to harass the enemy. Long range carrier patrols have penetrated into the enemy territory in the SOUTH EAST, and have brought back useful information. Considerable enemy arty activity has been apparent, particularly during the past 24 hrs. Lately, enemy aerial activity has been slight with only small formations of planes being used. A Tac/R reveals the presence of 300 MT ACROMA area, 150 MT bend el ADEM rd area, 100 MT BU AMUD, 50 MT moving along TRIGH CAPUZZO from WEST TO EAST.
 - b. In CRETE, air activity has been intensified in all areas and severe fighting continues. Long range fighters from EGYPT are attacking MALEME with a new type of incendiary bomb, which is having a deadly effect. Many fires were started among EA on ground. The GERMAN Air Officer Commanding in CRETE has been killed.
3. GROUND ACTIVITY.

A patrol from 2/23 Bn was engaged by enemy fire, incl BREDAS and Mcr-tars, and forced to withdraw. The enemy appeared to be in strength of about 1 Pl and was located between 42484243 and 42484248. As the patrol withdrew, it was fired on by a heavy BREDA from 42494251. At 0130 hrs yesterday, a patrol from 2/13 Bn moved fwd 300^x to a line of enemy sangars. 20 enemy were encountered and were 'shot up' with BRENS and grenades. The patrol returned with no casualties. The enemy has dug in a tank at 39794249 and constructing what may be a post at 40024244. Sangars, one of which has a telephone line leading to it, have been observed at 40074242. Between 1915/1945 hrs, 50/70 MT were seen moving down the escarpment at 404412. A further 20 were seen moving WEST from el ADEM. 2 vehs, approx 30 cwt, drove up CARRIER HILL and de-bussed 15 inf each. They were engaged by our arty and disappeared over the hill.

A stationary tk at 42854208 was engaged by our arty. CB shoot was carried out by our 60 pdrs at 0045 hrs 29 May. A hostile bty was neutralised in 10 rds of fire. The enemy once again resorted to the use of AA guns for ground shelling. Between 1830/1845 hrs, an AA bty firing from inside the salient shelled the PILASTRINO sector (50 shells). Hostile btys have been active on all fronts during the last 4 days incl the bty previously thought to be 149 mm. This, it is now considered, may be the GERMAN Inf gun which has a max range of 9296 yds and fires a shell of 92.6 lbs. Shelling was reported by the 104 RHA on their front on 26 May. That was the first hostile shelling reported on this front for approx a week. Resumption of activity on this LEFT Sector combined with reports of movements from hostile bty areas may indicate that enemy arty is being more evenly distributed around the perimeter. At 1122 hrs yesterday 3 enemy tks were observed approaching the perimeter along the el ADEM rd. They were engaged by our arty and then withdrew.

A patrol of 2/28 Bn encountered ITALIANS (total strength unknown), in area 402423, who withdrew as our patrol advanced. Another 12 ITALIANS were seen near sangar posns and ran away towards SW as patrol advanced. As patrol advd further, erratic LMG fire was met, and more enemy were seen running away throwing hand grenades (money-box type). A jumping-jack type of grenade was also directed at patrol; it is vicious in sound, but has little effect. In all, about 40 enemy were seen, and these were fired on with Thompson MGs by the patrol. Mills grenades were hurled into sangars, but result is unknown. Patrol returned safely, despite enemy arty fire.

GROUND ACTIVITY Ctd.

On the night 26/27 May, the centre Coy 13 Bn moved fwd. Their left flank was able to adv 300/500 yds, their centre 150 yds and their right flank 50 yds. Consolidation commenced, but at daybreak it was not completed, and it was decided to withdraw to the posn previously occupied. The following night, consolidation was completed and the posn occupied. About 0400 hrs, fwd listening posts warned the coy of the approach of the enemy in strength, approx 50. Heavy fire was brought to bear by the Coy, and the enemy withdrew in much disorder, leaving many casualties on the ground. The next morning, stretcher bearers were observed working under cover of the Red Cross flag and several ambulances were seen working in the rear.

Our casualties were nil.

Yesterday 5 enemy tks approached the perimeter along el ADEM rd and were dispersed by arty fire.

Considerable AFV movement during last night in el ADEM Sector and on the escarpment south of the salient. Two enemy tks were knocked out by arty fire.

4. ENEMY ORGANISATION.

Rations: A POW states that they receive one hot meal daily. Usually this consists of stew made from tinned meat and vegetables. For the other two meals, they invariably get the same rations - one tin of sardines (about 4 oz), one oz of honey, one bar of chocolate (about the size of our 3d Nestles), $\frac{1}{2}$ loaf of bread (about the size of our loaf) per man. Five or six cigarettes. Plenty of tea and coffee is available and occasionally they receive an issue of ITALIAN aerated water.

J.H. WILTON, Lieut.,
I. O. TINT

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/43 Bn (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 ...	1		1
Captains ...	6		8
Lieutenants ...	25	4	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
TOTALS ...	32	4	4

* 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)
Lieut	HENNING	B.J.N. 2/43 Bn	I.A.G.H.

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt. Col	VX14029	DELLIN W.H.	2/43 Bn	Yes	
Major	SX8886	CHROX T.H.	2 1/c/	"	
Major	SX8888	FRITH C.	OC A Coy	"	
Capt	SX8891	WILLIAMSON H.J.	B.H.Q.	"	Pending transfer
Capt.	SX8890	STRETTON P.A.	OC HQ Coy	"	
Capt.	SX8873	TUCKER W.H.W.	OC C Coy	"	
Capt.	SX8834	JEANES H.R.	OC D Coy	"	
Capt.	SX8874	MCCARTER L.	OC B Coy	"	
Capt.	SX8897	FARE A.I.	21/a c "	"	
Lieut	SX8875	SUDHOLZ R.P.	" D "	"	
Lieut	SX8847	CATCHLOVE W.B.L.	" A "	"	
Lieut	SX8895	HOSKINS J.G.	OC 3 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8889	HINOCKS J.W.N.	OC 2 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8877	POLLOK J.A.	OC 22 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8822	GORDON J.D.	OC 15 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8479	WILTON J.H.	L.O.	"	
Lieut	SX8899	BURING G.G.	OC 8 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8895	SANSTER R.W.	OC 7 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8863	LONGBOTTOM R.E.	OC 11 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8882	TAPP R.P.	OC 9 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8876	SUNTER J.S.	OC 13 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8887	BYWARD E.W.	G.N.	"	
Lieut	VX13523	BAKER R.J.	Adjt.	"	
Lieut	SX10526	BURTON A.J.	OC 18 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX10503	STEWART C.A.	OC 1 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX10585	HODGETTS J.C.	OC 6 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX10532	WEGNER R.A.	OC 5 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8485	FRATT L.J.	OC 4 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8833	BARRITT K.C.	C Coy	"	
Lieut	SX8805	GOUGH J.L.	OC 10 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8157	WORTHLEY H.G.	OC 17 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX8830	RICHMOND C.R.	A Coy	"	

(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.
Capt	SX10147	Rice J.D.	AMC	1/7/40	PMO
Major	SX8435	GARD T.	AMCD	4/8/41	Chaplain

2/43 Bn

(Unit.)

5 May 41

(Date of Despatch.)

W. H. Dellin

(Signature of Commander.)

Lt. Col.

24 Aust Inf Bde.

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/43 Bn (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 ...	1		
Majors ...	2		1
Captains ...	6	3	3
Lieutenants ...	23	4	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
TOTALS ...	32	4	4

* 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)
Lieut	HEMMINGS	B.J. 2/43 Bn	1 A.G.H.

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt Col	VX 14029	CRELLIN W.W.	2/43 Bn	Yes	
Major	SX 8886	GONROY T.M.	2 I/C	"	
Major	SX 8888	FRITH C.	OC A Coy	"	
Capt	SX 8891	WILLIAMSON H.J.	B.H.Q.	"	Pending Transfer
Capt	SX 8990	STRETTON F.A.	OC HQ Coy	"	
Capt	SX 8973	TUCKER W.R.W.	OC C Coy	"	
Capt	SX 9634	JRANES M.R.	OC D Coy	"	
Capt	SX 8974	MCCARTER L.	OC B Coy	"	
Capt	SX 8897	HARE A.I.	2 I/C C	"	
Lieut	SX 8975	SUDHOLZ R.F.	2 I/C D	"	
Lieut	SX 9947	CATCHLOVE W.E.L.	2 I/C A	"	
Lieut	SX 8895	HOSKINS G.S.	OC 3 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8889	MINOCKS J.W.N.	OC 14 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8977	POLLOK J.A.	OC 12 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 9822	GORDON J.D.	OC 15 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 9479	WILTON J.H.	I.O.	"	
Lieut	SX 8899	BURING O.G.	OC 8 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8893	SANGSTER R.W.	OC 7 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8063	LONGBOTTOM R.E.	OC 11 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8892	TAPP R.P.	OC 9 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8076	SUNTER J.S.	OC 13 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8887	HAYWARD E.W.	Q.M.	"	
Lieut	VX 13528	HAMER R.J.	Adj't	"	
Lieut	SX 10526	BURTON A.J.	OC 18 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 10303	STEWART C.A.	OC 1 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 10525	HODGETTS J.C.	OC 6 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 10632	WEGENER R.A.	OC 5 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 9485	PRATT L.J.	OC 4 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 6835	BARRITT K.C.	"C" Coy	"	
Lieut	SX 5805	GOUGH J.L.	OC 10 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 6157	WORTHLEY M.G.	OC 17 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 5230	RICHMOND C.R.	A Coy	"	

(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.
Capt	SX 10147	RICE J.D.	AAMC	1/7/40	R.M.O.
Padre	QX 6436	GARD T.	AACHD	4/2/41	Chaplain

2/43 Bn

(Unit.)

10 May 41

(Date of Despatch.)

W.W. Crellin

Lt Col.,

(Signature of Commander.)

24 Aust Inf Bde.

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

2/43 Bn

Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(page 2)

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
General duty personnel										1		113	114	5	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)															5 NCOs to be absorbed.

2/43 Bn

Unit.

[Signature]

Lt Col.,
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 10 May 41

24 Aust Inf Bde.
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/43 Bn (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 ...	1		
Majors ...	2		2
Captains ...	6		3
Lieutenants ...	21	2	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
TOTALS ...	30	22	4

* 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.
Lieut	HINOCKS	J.W.N. 2/43 Bn	13/5/41	Wounded in action
Lieut	PRATT	L.J. "	13/5/41	Killed in action

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)
Lieut	HERRINGS	B.J. 2/43 Bn	24 Inf Tng Bn.
Lieut	HINOCKS	J.W.N. "	A.D.S.

2/43 Bn

Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(page 2)

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.	
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers																
Butchers																
Carpenters and Joiners																
Clerks																
Despatch Riders																
Draughtsmen (topo)																
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																
Electricians																
Farriers																
Fitters																
Masons																
Painters and Decorators																
Plumbers and Gasfitters																
Saddlers and Harness Makers																
Signallers																
Storemen technical																
Vickers Machine Gunners																
Cooks																
General duty personnel										1			121	122		
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)																5 NCOs to be absorbed.

2/43 Bn
Unit.

M. W. Austin
Lt Col
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 17 May 41.

24 Aust Inf Bde.
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/43 BN (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	2		
Majors	2		2
Captains	6		6
Lieutenants	21	2	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
TOTALS	30	2	4

* 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)
Lieut	HEMINGS	B.J. 2/43 BN	24 Inf Tug Bn.
Lieut	HINOCH	J.W.B. "	A.D.S.

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3		4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.		Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt Col	SX 14029	CRILLIEN	H.W.	2/45 BN	Yes	
Major	SX 8836	CONNOR	T.M.	2/45 BN	No	Adm Comd 2/15 BN
Major	SX 8838	FRITH	C.	2 1/0	Yes	
Capt	SX 8891	WILLIAMSON	H.J.	CC A Coy	"	
Capt	SX 8873	TUCKER	H.R.W.	CC C Coy	"	
Capt	SX 8834	JAMES	H.R.	CC D Coy	"	
Capt	SX 8874	MCARTER	L.	CC B Coy	"	
Capt	SX 8897	JANE	A.I.	2 1/0 C	"	
Lieut	SX 8875	SEIDOLZ	R.P.	2 1/0 D	"	
Lieut	SX 8847	CARROLL	H.R.L.	2 1/0 A	"	
Lieut	SX 8895	HOSKINS	J.G.	CC 3 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8877	POLLOK	J.A.	CC 12 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8822	GORDON	J.D.	CC 15 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8479	WILTON	J.H.	I.O.	"	
Lieut	SX 8899	FURLING	O.G.	CC 8 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8898	JANSEN	H.W.	CC 7 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8063	LONGMONTON	H.E.	CC 11 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8892	TAPP	H.P.	CC 9 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8876	SUNTER	J.S.	CC 13 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 8887	HAYWARD	H.W.	C.M.	"	
Lieut	SX 13523	FAIRER	R.J.	Adjt	"	
Lieut	SX 10526	BURTON	A.J.	CC 13 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 10303	STEWART	C.A.	CC 1 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 10825	HODGKINS	J.C.	CC 6 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 10632	BEHNER	H.A.	CC 5 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 6835	BARRITT	K.C.	" 1st Coy	"	
Lieut	SX 5805	COUGH	J.L.	CC 10 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 6157	WORTHLEY	H.S.	CC 17 Pl	"	
Lieut	SX 5230	RICHMOND	C.R.	CC 2 Pl	"	

(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.
Capt	SX 10147	RICE	A-130	1/7/40	R.M.O.
Padre	SX 6436	GARD	A-130	4/9/41	Chaplain

2/45 BN

(Unit.)

17 MAY 41

(Date of Despatch.)

W. J. Allen

(Signature of Commander.)

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

2/43 Bn

Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(page 2)

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
General duty personnel									1		2	122		124	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)															5 NCOs to be absorbed.

2/43 Bn

Unit.

W. C. ...

Lt Col.
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 17 May 41.

24 Aust Inf Bde.
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/43 Bn. A.I.F. (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 ...	1		
Majors ...	2		1
Captains ...	6		3
Lieutenants ...	22	3	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
TOTALS ...	31	3	4

* 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.
Lieut	HEMNINGS B.J.	2/43 Bn.	30/5/41	From 24 Inf. Eng. Bn.

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)
Lieut.	MINOCKS J.W.N.	2/43 Bn.	Base Hospital.

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.
(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt. Col. VX	14029	CRELLIN H.W.	2/43 Bn	Yes	
Maj. SX	8886	CONROY T.M.	Det. for duty	No	Adm Comd 2/15 Bn
Maj. SX	8888	FRITH C.	2 I/C	Yes	
Capt. SX	8891	WILLIAMSON H.J.	OC A Coy	"	
Capt. SX	8990	STRETTON F.A.	" HQ "	"	
Capt. SX	8973	TUCKER W.R.W.	" C "	"	
Capt. SX	9634	JEANES H.R.	" D "	"	
Capt. SX	8974	MCCARTER L.	" B "	"	
Capt. SX	8897	HARE A.I.	2 1/c C "	"	
Lieut. SX	8975	SUDHOLZ R.F.	2 1/c D "	"	
Lieut. SX	9947	CATCHLOVE W.E.L.	2 1/c A "	"	
Lieut. SX	6895	HOSKINS J.G.	OC 3 Pl.	"	
Lieut. SX	8979	HEMMINGS B.J.	" 16 "	"	
Lieut. SX	8977	POLLOK J.A.	" 12 "	"	
Lieut. SX	9822	GORDON J.D.	" 15 "	"	
Lieut. SX	9479	WILTON J.H.	I.C.	"	
Lieut. SX	8899	BIRING G.G.	OC 8 Pl	"	
Lieut. SX	8895	SANGSTER R.W.	" 7 "	"	
Lieut. SX	9063	LONGBOTTOM R.E.	" 11 "	"	
Lieut. SX	8892	TAPP R.P.	" 9 "	"	
Lieut. SX	8976	SUNTER J.S.	Det. for duty	No	Att. 24 Aust. Inf. Bde.
Lieut. SX	8887	HAYWARD E.W.	G.H.	Yes	
Lieut. VX	13528	HANER R.J.	Adj. t.	"	
Lieut. SX	10526	BURTON A.J.	OC 18 Pl.	"	
Lieut. SX	10303	STEWART C.A.	" 1 "	"	
Lieut. SX	10525	HODGETTS J.C.	" 6 "	"	
Lieut. SX	10632	WEGENER R.A.	" 5 "	"	
Lieut. SX	6835	BARRITT K.C.	"C" Coy	"	
Lieut. SX	5805	GOUGH J.L.	OC 10 Pl.	"	
Lieut. SX	6157	WORTHLEY H.G.	" 17 "	"	
Lieut. SX	5230	RICHMOND C.R.	" 2 "	"	

(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.
Capt. SX	10147	RICE J.D.	A.A.M.C.	1/7/40	R.N.O.
Padre QX	6436	GARD T.	A.A.Ch.D.	6/2/41	Chaplain

2/43 Bn. A.I.F.

(Unit.)

W. Crellin

(Signature of Commander.)

31 May 41.

(Date of Despatch.)

24 Aust. Inf. Bde.

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

1. GENERAL.

Period under review has been generally quiet. Between 1840 and 1935, about 90 M.T., including some AFVs were seen moving North down escarpment at 404412 and 405413.

Post R20 is well ranged by enemy arty, and any veh movement in vicinity attracts immediate shelling.

A patrol of 2/28 Bn encountered some Italians (strength unknown), in area 402423, who withdrew as our patrol advanced.

Figtree area was searched without encountering any enemy.

A patrol of 2/32 Bn which moved about 4500 yds south from Post M47, met no opposition.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

At 1509 hrs, 6 M.T. were seen to move down escarpment at 426410.

At 1840, about 20 M.T. were seen descending escarpment at 405413.

A further 50 M.T. including AFVs, were seen moving North down escarpment 404412 at 1935. Twenty more M.T. were seen proceeding in the same direction at 1957.

At 2015, our arty engaged 2 veh and 15 men at MEDAUJAR.

At 2035, a compressor, which had been towed by a large veh was left near R5.

At 0657, about 24 men were seen moving vicinity fortified tk O.P. at 39794249.

From reports received, indications are that a post is being prepared at 40024241, and at 40264242, a working party was seen in action.

Three tks seen about 4000 yds out from Post R38 withdrew under fire from arty.

Some spasmodic M.G. fire fell near R15; no casualties reported.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

During morning 29 May, our 'Bush' arty engaged odd troops seen moving 5/8000 yds out from R32.

A night patrol of 2/28 Bn penetrated to 40224235. Figtree area was searched, but no enemy seen.

At 402423, about 12 enemy (Italian) were seen near sangar positions. Enemy ran away towards S.W. as our patrol advanced. As our patrol advanced further, erratic LMG fire was met, and more enemy were seen running away throwing hand grenades (money-box type). A jumping-jack type of grenade was also directed at patrol; it is vicious in sound, but has little effect. In all, about 40 enemy were seen, and these were fired on by our patrol with Thompson sub-M.G.s. Several Mills grenades were hurled into sangars, but result unknown. Our patrol returned safely under fire from enemy arty.

Another patrol of 2/32 Bn which moved to area 407417, did not encounter any enemy.

Other Coy front patrols from both Bns report N.M.S.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

Usual recce planes only.

5. ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy arty apparently have post R20 well ranged, and closely observed. The presence of M.T. in this area almost immediately attracts shelling. Damage up to 1000 hrs has been NIL.

Light shelling was also reported in vicinity of Posts R11 and R37.

R. J. H.
for Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

243

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.12.

(Compiled from information received to 0800 hrs 29 May)

1. GENERAL.

There has been no activity of any consequence on this front for the past 24 hrs.

Tacr 1030-1130, 28 May, reported 300 M.T. at ACROMA, and 150 M.T. North of EL ADEM below escarpment. "Bush" arty engaged and dispersed about 30 enemy seen about 3500 yds out from A Coy front.

Some heavy shelling was reported falling in vicinity of Post R20.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

12 M.T. observed by 107 RHA in sq. 424410. Vehicles moved down escarpment and turned East.

At 2005, a med tk was observed in area 400424. It appeared to recce fwd slopes. It fired a series of white signal lights.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Continuous patrols maintained by 2/32 and 2/28 Bns during the night reported N.M.S. or heard.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

Two recce planes over, one appeared to make a detailed recce.

5. ENEMY SHELLING.

From 1519 hrs to 1610 hrs, some 97 shells fell in vicinity of Post R20. No damage or casualties resulted.

Accom
30/5

Distribution as per
Summary No.10.

[Signature]
Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

2/43 Bn
24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 11.

(Compiled from information received to 1100 hrs 28 May 41).

1. GENERAL.

Position continues to be generally quiet on this front.

Enemy MMG fire on some 2/28 Bn posts was silenced by our Mortar and arty fire.

Patrolling from both Bns continues to be very active, although no enemy have been engaged.

An observed shoot by arty with F.O.O. in carrier was unsuccessful.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Probable enemy O.P. positions observed in squares 406418 and 405419. Some M.G. fire coming from sq 404420 was reported by 2/28 Bn. Our Mortar fire brought to bear but result unknown.

At 1320 hrs vicinity of Posts R 32 and 33, was fired on with MMG from 40584212. Fire was soon silenced by our Mortar and 'bush' arty.

Some slight enemy movement (about 5 men) was observed in area 400424.

Very little M.T. movement has been reported during the period of this report.

Some 30/40 vehicles were seen by a patrol of 2/28 Bn in BIR SACTA area.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

A Carrier patrol of 2/28 Bn observed about 60 to 70 enemy in well dispersed sangars in area 403420; also at least 6 guns or mortar emplacements in area 404421. Patrol was fired on by arty and A.tk weapons, and returned via BIR EL CARMUSA, from where some enemy M.T. was seen in areas 401419 and 402419.

Another night patrol of 2/28 Bn reported hearing digging in area 401424. They also report that enemy hold positions in strength in vicinity of Pt 183 at areas 402423 and 401424. These positions are strongly held by night, but only small parties are left in sangars during daylight.

An observed shoot with arty F.O.O. in carrier did not engage enemy, but observed a well dispersed group of M.T. in area 402419 to 399423. Patrol returned under fire from both arty and A.tk guns.

Other patrols from both Bns report N.M.S.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

Other than usual recon flights, no hostile action was reported.

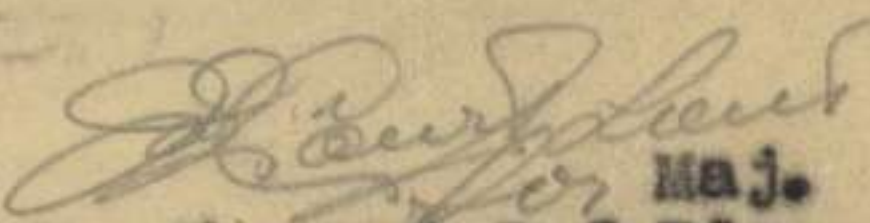
5. ENEMY SHELLING.

Some slight shelling East of B Coy 2/28 Bn, otherwise NIL.

6. ENEMY SIGNAL ACTIVITY.

2/28 Bn reported that a No. 18 set from B Coy picked up German transmission on the same frequency; time 2017 hrs.

Distribution
As per Summary No. 10.


Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

1 See
PMA

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 10.

Compiled from information received to 1000 hrs 27 May 41).

1. GENERAL.
Night 26/27 May generally quiet. About 6 enemy M.T. with lights observed moving East to West on escarpment.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.
A patrol from 2/32 Bn reported fresh digging about 1500 yds in front of C Coy wire.
M.T. movement observed moving East / West along escarpment; at least 6 of these vehicles were using head lights.
At 2000 hrs, 2/28 Bn reported having observed movement of M.T. on A.F.V.s in area 396428.
3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.
A carrier patrol of 2/32 Bn yesterday afternoon did not see or contact any enemy. Patrol moved out about 2500 yds.
Other patrols from 2/32 and 2/28 Bns during night 26/27 reported N.M.S.
4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.
About 50 planes were observed moving East to West outside perimeter between 1600 and 2150 hrs yesterday. Machines flew very low, and at least one was in communication with the ground by means of flares. No bombs were dropped and no machine gunning.
Other single aircraft appeared over the area at various times during the day.
5. ENEMY SHELLING.
About 14 rounds fell in rear of Post R20, otherwise nothing reported.


Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution.

9 Aust Div
18 Aust Inf Bde
26 Aust Inf Bde
20 Aust Inf Bde
1 RHA
107 RHA
1 N.F.
2/43 Bn
2/28 Bn
2/32 Bn
War Diary
Office copy

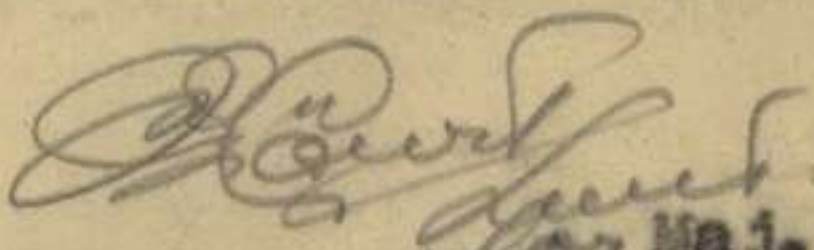
2/43

I Sec
RJA

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 9.

(Compiled from information received to 1500 hrs 26 May 41).

1. GENERAL.
There has been little or no enemy activity on this front during the last 24 hrs.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.
Unoccupied enemy diggings in areas 406421 and 405420 were found to be camouflaged to show occupation. Our patrol discovered a probable enemy O.P. at 40434241.
Sounds of M.T. movement were heard during night 25/26 May, but very little movement seen during daylight. At 1130 hrs 25 May, enemy (GERMAN) M/Cyclist was observed 1500 yds from Post R29. After having been engaged by our A.tk fire, cyclist abandoned his machine, which was later recovered by a patrol of 2/28 Bn.
3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.
A patrol of 2/28 Bn was unable to penetrate more than 500 yds from B Coy on account of fixed line M.G. and A.tk fire coming from the direction of Post R7. Tracer gun was used.
An observed shoot conducted by our arty this morning, with P.O.O. using light tk as O.P. and 2 carriers providing scout protection. About 40 M.T. were engaged in area 401419 and hits were registered. A further group of M.T. (approx 50) in area 398423 were also engaged. During the shoot, 3 enemy 105 mm guns in area 40104211 opened fire, but were soon silenced by our arty. Patrol was followed some distance in by 3 heavy tks.
4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.
Usual recce flights during daylight.
5. ENEMY SHELLING.
A few rounds fell between R11 and R12, otherwise nothing reported.


Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

SECRET

24 AUST INF BDE "I" SUMMARY NO. 8

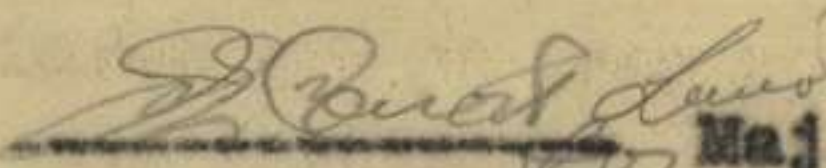
SECRET

(Compiled from information received
to 1200 hours 19 May)

1. GENERAL There has been no enemy activity of any consequence on this bde front during the period of this report.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY From 1925 hours 18 May some 40 odd vehicles were seen moving along foot of escarpment (2/48 bn front) in a westerly direction. Other small dispersed groups of M.T. were seen but were out of range of our artillery. At 2010, about 20 men were seen debussing at a point over two (2) miles along the BARDIA Road (from perimeter Two other vehicles were seen in the same area. It is thought that these troops occupy strong-posts in area 427421. Three to four tanks and a few infantry were observed at 41934157.
3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY Patrols sent out by 2/43 bn to locate exact position of enemy strong-posts astride BARDIA Road, have reported the positions as being from 42724213 S.E; to track running across BARDIA Road at 42864210 then north to approx 42864216.
4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY Apart from the usual recce flights, nothing to report.
5. ENEMY SHELLING NIL
6. LIGHT SIGNALS Information is required regarding lights seen flashing from area 417429 and 423427.

Distribution:-

HQ 9 Aust Div
HQ 20 Bde
2/43 Bn ✓
2/32 Bn
CONROY Bn.
2/48 Bn.
104 R.H.A.
24 Bde (Rear HQ)
2/3 Fd Coy.


Maj.
B;M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.7.

(Compiled from information received to 0800 hrs 18 May 41).

1. GENERAL.

During the period of this report, there has been very little enemy activity on this Bde front other than reported movement of M.T. East to West and out of range of our arty.

The relief of 2/28 Bn by 2/48 Bn took place during night 17/18 May.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

2/28 Bn report considerable movement of enemy M.T. in and East/West direction. During the day 17 May, several small groups (6 or 7 vehicles) were fired on by our arty, but success could not be gauged owing to dust.

The only other enemy activity reported was movement of 6 men in area 42494244, and a similar number on mound 42484247.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Two patrols sent out by 2/43 Bn on nights 16/17 and 17/18 May to determine whether enemy is still occupying strongpoints astride BARDIA RD, were not successful in obtaining definite information, but voices were heard, and although our patrol fired some 50 rds of S.A.A., the enemy did not reply.

A daylight carrier patrol from 2/28 Bn was observed by enemy before reaching its objective (feature 120), and although patrol covered a wide area, no enemy were contacted.

Other patrols from 2/28 Bn report sounds of M.T. moving East to West a long distance out, but no enemy encountered.

The relief of 2/28 Bn by 2/48 Bn was effected during night 17/18 May. 2/28 Bn now occupying a reserve position in Pilastrino area, being temporarily under comd 26 Bde.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

At 1600 hrs 17 May, about 30 planes flew over this sector after bombing TOBRUCH. As a result of 'strafing' by low flying aircraft, an old Italian amn dump in vicinity of Rear Bde H.Q. was destroyed. No casualties reported.

Two or three recce flights made over this area during the day.

5. ENEMY SHELLING.

A few shells in vicinity of Blockhouse between 1030-1200 hrs 17 May. Shells reported to be heavier calibre than usual. More information sought in this regard.

Allen
19/5

Robert Leggett
Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

H.Q. 9 Aust Div
H.Q. 20 Bde
2/43 Bn
2/32 Bn
CONROY BN
2/48 Bn
104 R.H.A.
24 Bde (Rear HQ)
2/3 Fd Coy.

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.6.

(Compiled from information received to 0800 hrs 16 May 41).

1. GENERAL.

Small enemy force (estimated strength about 2 pls) seen near Trig 145, dispersed by our arty fire morning 16 May.

During yesterday, Carrier patrols from 2/28 Bn attacked troops in area 418414. Patrols withdrew under fire from A.tk guns and arty and 2 tks.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

At 0620, small enemy force of about 2 pls was dispersed by arty fire, area 422418. Some 15 to 20 vehicles in rear of this area were out of range of our arty.

No movement of enemy observed or heard during night.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Carrier patrols from both Bns were active during the day. A patrol from 2/28 Bn intercepted 2 small enemy tks, approaching from area 421417, but showed no desire to be engaged and turned about and retreated. Another patrol contacted enemy force of 2 med tks, 5 M.T., several M/Cycles and at least 30 men in general area 418414. Patrol engaged enemy from 600 yds, but was forced to withdraw under fire from tks and arty. Later, another carrier patrol attacked a small group of 8 to 12 men in area 422416. Patrol was again driven off by a larger force with arty and A.tk weapons. A further patrol engaged enemy in same area, causing dispersion and casualties.

Night patrols from both fwd Bns reported all quiet.

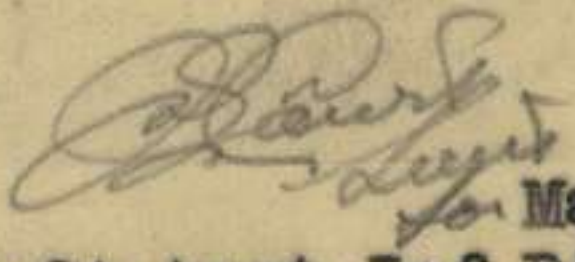
4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

Three bombs dropped in vicinity Bde H.Q. : no damage or casualties. Usual recce flights over perimeter.

During night 15/16 May, sounds of aircraft moving in an Easterly direction.

5. ENEMY SHELLING.

NIL - other than a few 75 mm shells falling in 2/28 Bn area.


Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

2/43
24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 5.

(Compiled from information received to 0800 hrs 15 May 41).

1. GENERAL. There has been very little activity on this Bde front during the period of this Summary.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY. One 'I' tk which was abandoned in the operation on the 13 May, was ~~recovered~~^{recovered} during the night.

A night patrol of 2/43 Bn heard sounds of digging in the vicinity of WADI UEDDAN. No M.T. movement observed during the day, but sounds of M.T. heard about 2000 yds East of Post 281 from 2310-2330 hrs 14 May.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY. Daylight Carrier patrol from 2/28 Bn. reced area Trig 143-41884179 and 1000 yds East without encountering any enemy. Other night patrols from both Bns report all quiet.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY. Two or three recce flights made over ~~of~~ this area during day.

At 1515 14 May, 20/25 planes passed over the area after bombing TOBRUCH. No damage or casualties reported.

5. ENEMY SHELLING. Six rds fell in vicinity of Blockhouse (42114239), otherwise nil.

Robert Lewis
for Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

*Aug
1941*

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 14.

(Compiled from information received to 1000 hrs 31 May 41).

1. GENERAL. Five enemy tks approaching 2/32 Bn front along the EL ADEM RD, were dispersed by arty fire during yesterday morning.

In the late afternoon, 6 of our tks patrolling South from 2/32 Bn front, were followed some distance in by 11 enemy med tks. These were engaged by our tks and arty and two were knocked out.

A patrol of 2/28 Bn again contacted enemy in area 403423 causing several casualties.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY. At 1105 hrs, 3 enemy tks approached along EL ADEM RD to about 1500 yds of R43. Two others were seen a little to the West. When fired on by our arty, they dispersed to the South. Tks were of heavy type carrying 75 mm guns.

1745 hrs: 7 to 10 med tks preceded by 2 M/cyclists and followed by 2 lorries of tps, came down escarpment in area 399425. The tps from the lorries debussed, and the tks moved East to area 401424, and then West to area 397425. Engaged by arty, but result unknown.

Between 1800 and 1940 hrs, dust from vehicles was continually observed on the Southern skyline.

From reports received, Pt 144 in sq 407416 appears to be a tk R.V.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY. At 1943, six of our tks, one carrying an F.O.O., proceeded South from 2/32 Bn front for about 2500 yds. Eleven enemy med tks appeared and came North along EL ADEM RD. They were engaged by our tks and arty; one was set on fire and one was damaged in the tracks. The remainder withdrew South and appeared to settle down about 6000 yds out. Later a patrol from 2/32 Bn contacted one of the tks reported to have been knocked out, and attacked with S.T. grenades and Mills bombs. S.T. grenades proved ineffective, and although some casualties were caused, the tk was able to move off very slowly with all lights on.

A patrol from 2/28 Bn which penetrated to area 403423 and vicinity BIR EL CARMUSA, again contacted enemy, who, unlike the day previously, stood their ground. Patrol attacked, using Tommy guns and hand grenades, but were prevented from coming to close grips with the enemy on a/c of concertina wire. Estimated number of casualties inflicted unknown. Our patrol returned safely.

Another Coy front patrol from 2/28 Bn came under M.G. fire at 40494243.

A 2/32 Bn patrol report having seen about 20 unoccupied weapon pits in area 407420.

2/28 Bn 'bush' arty engaged & dispersed about 30 enemy seen on the crest of the escarpment South from R32.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY. Usual recce planes.

5. ENEMY SHELLING. Some light shelling was reported falling on 2/28 Bn front, but no damage or casualties.

B. M. 24 Aust Inf Bde
Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution as per
Summary no. 10.

BASH M.
24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 3.

(Compiled from information received to 0800 hrs 11 May 41).

1. GENERAL.

Very little movement of enemy M.T. over whole Bde front.

Our Carrier patrols again active. One patrol successfully encountered about 200 unarmed Italians.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

About 9 men seen moving in area EAST of head of WADI WEDDAN.

Movement of M.T. heard well out from REBE front between 0135 and 0200.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

A Carrier patrol from BASH got in amongst an Italian working party ^{approx 200} in area 425418. Twentysix Bren mags and 10 grenades were fired, and many casualties (estimate unknown) were inflicted. Carriers returned safely although fired on by A.tk guns and tanks.

REBE Carrier patrol penetrated very deeply, and in area 420412 observed a series of enemy posts. Patrol did not contact enemy.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY - NIL.

5. ENEMY SHELLING - NIL.

J. Court
for Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

BASH
24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 2.

(Compiled from information received to 0800 hrs 10 May 41).

1. GENERAL.

Continued night movement of M.T.

Our Carrier patrols able to penetrate deeply into enemy territory.

Eight tanks driven off REBE front by arty fire.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Continued movement of M.T. during night 9/10 May, along REBE front, passing to and from the direction of BARDIA RD.

At 0753 10 May, 8 tanks were observed approaching REBE front; 3 of them came within 1500 yds of Posts R 69 and 71, and fired with MMG and 37 mm guns. Arty fire beat them off, and at 0823 hrs, they were seen heading East towards BARDIA RD.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

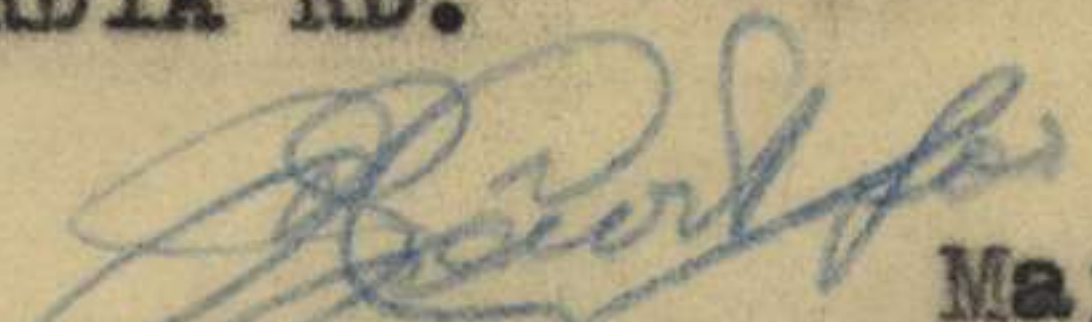
Daylight Carrier patrol from BASH captured 2 Italian prisoners (7 Birs. Regt) from a series of weapon pits occupied by 40-50 men and sit. astride BARDIA RD 425422.

Other Carrier patrols from REBE penetrated over 7000 yds to the SGHIFET EL ADEM area, where no movement of enemy was observed, and to area 426412, where about 20 vehicles and protective force of approx 50 men were seen.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY. - NIL.

5. ENEMY SHELLING.

Light shelling in vicinity Blockhouse(421423); also shelling in vicinity of Rd block in BARDIA RD.


Maj.
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

BASH

24 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 1.

(Compiled from information received to 0800 hrs 9 May 41)

1. GENERAL.

Very little enemy movement over whole Bde front. Tac Rs. show from 240 to 400 M.T. between GAMEUT to SIDI BU AMUD.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

At 0845 hrs 2/28 Bn reported movement of about 5 tanks 4000 yds left of Post R59. Fired on by our arty and then disappeared over escarpment. Otherwise little or no M.T. movement seen.

3. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

See Patrol Reports.

4. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY. NIL.

5. ENEMY SHELLING.

Some very light shelling close to Post R64 and behind 2/43 Bn left fwd Coy. Ten shells landed in vicinity of blockhouse 42114238.

Robert Lewis
for Maj.

B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

Compiled from Information received up to 0900 hrs. Copy No' 13
2 May 41

1. GENERAL

(a) A determined and continuous attack was made yesterday by the enemy in the West along the ACROMA road. Tanks were used, supported by infantry and dive-bombing attacks.

The tanks penetrated deeply and the enemy inf were able to occupy some of our fwd posns - the enemy tanks were attacked by our inf and arty and the destruction of at least 12 is confirmed.

(b) On other fronts there has been little activity.

2. GROUND ACTIVITY.

After several dive-bombing attacks and considerable shelling on the unit astride the ACROMA rd a number of infantry penetrated the defences between Posts S 10 and R 12. These were engrs of the 33rd Engr Coy who were to prepare the crossing for tanks.

They met with great resistance from our tps and apparently their plan was changed, because at 0840 hrs 30 tanks approached the perimeter further South at Post S 14. These passed through the wire and, avoiding our gun posns, turned to the West engaging inf posts. Six of our Inf tanks and eight cruisers engaged them and the enemy tanks were finally forced to withdraw, after losing the following:
4 on minefields, 4 by our tank action, 3 by arty fire and 3 by Molotov Cocktails.

We lost 4 cruisers and 4 Inf Tanks but 2 of these are recoverable.

At about 1715 hrs, 26 Inf Bde counter-attacked with the 2/43 Bn but it was unsuccessful and the enemy held the salient from posts S 7 to R 7 incl.

At 0700 2 Hvy tanks and infantry appeared to be forming up for an attack in vicinity of posts 5 and 6. This was dispersed by our arty fire.

3. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

115 Mot Inf Regt (15 Armd Div)	-West of TOBRUCH
33 Eng Bn (15 Armd Div)	
1 Coy (Panzer Pioneers)	-West of TOBRUCH
2 Coy (attached 2 M G Bn)	el ADEM Sector
3 Coy (Protective Coy)	-West of TOBRUCH
7 BERSA-GLIERE Regt (TRENTO)	astride BARDIA rd about 3 kilos out
8 Bn Motor Cyclists	Nth of rd area WADI BELGASSEM
10 Bn Lorried Inf	Sth of rd same line.
11 Bn Lorried Inf	Unknown, but possibly in rear in support.

4. ENEMY ORGANISATION

The 33 Engr Bn appears to have rather an unusual organisation - No 1 Coy are known as "Panzer Pioneers", and their job is to prepare the way for the tanks.

No 2 Coy is used for general duties and at the present, are attached to the 2 M G Bn probably in the el ADEM Sector.

No 3 Coy is for protective duties and is equipped with 10 Mk I tanks and the remainder of the coy act as lorried inf.

5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Several reports of the enemy using flame-throwers, both portable and from tanks, have come to hand. Confirmation of this is urgently required.

(see over)

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY

The enemy carried out about six dive-bombing attacks on the troops on the fwd areas to-day.

One J U 88 was brought down by AA fire whilst another failed to come out of his dive and crashed.

At least two others were definitely hit by small AA shells.

Two of our fighters, after a brief engagement with a numerically superior enemy, made forced landings but both pilots are safe.

Our long range bombers attacked and destroyed the ammunition dump at BENGHASI. All planes returned safely.

J. H. ...
for Col.
GS 9 AUST DIV.

<u>DIST.</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>
18 Inf Bde	1-4
20 do	5-10
24 do	11-14
26 do	15-20
3 Armd Bde	21-25
CRA	26-32
3 A Tk Regt	33
RAE	34-37
8 Aust Lt AA Bty	38
Sigs	39-40
DESFORCE	41-42
1 NF	43
TOBRUCH Sub-area (one for 102 M.M.)	44-45
204 Gp HQ	46-47
6 Sqn RAF	48-49
AILO	50
SNOIS (one for C in C Med)	51-52
NLO	53
Comd	54
G	55-57
AQ	58-60
AASC	61-62
Medical	63
Ord	64
500 AOD	65
File	66-68
War Diary	69-70
Spares	71-75

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 26Copy No. 13
3 May 41Compiled from information received up to 0900 hrs 3 May.1. GENERAL

(a) During the day the enemy continued to exploit the MEDAUUAR salient but used very few tanks in co-operation with his infantry.

(b) On several occasions, concentrations of enemy tanks, M T and infantry, apparently forming up, were dispersed by our arty fire.

(c) The enemy appears to be in consolidation opposite front now held by us which now includes S 8, Fort 40154300 and R 9.

(d) The enemy has pushed his M Gs and arty well fwd to act as strong points, supporting further penetration of our posns.

(e) A unit of H.M. Navy carried out a bombardment of the area S of DERNA rd, along grid line 396, during night 2/3 May.

(f) Two flights of Blenheims carried out bombing raids on the MEDAUUAR salient.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

1st Bn	104 Mot Inf Regt	- located S W TOBRUCH
2 Coy	208 Engr Bn	- att to a M G Bn possibly opposite PILASTRINO sector.
2 Grp	75 Arty Regt	- SOLLUM

3. GROUND ACTIVITY.

The enemy appeared to use most of the day consolidating his posn in the salient. Two half-hearted efforts were made to widen his front - the first at 1655 hrs when about 50 inf divided into two parties and simultaneously advanced on Posts R 9 and R 10. They were supported by one large tank, but the attack was broken up by our arty and M G fire.

At 1730 hrs, 2/10 Bn reported that 300 Inf were advancing on Pt 171. At this time, pt 171 was held by a detachment of 1 N F who were trying to get their fire on to the high ground on the left.

This det came under heavy fire from the enemy arty, but supported by our own arty, managed to hold off the enemy and force him to disperse in the area pt 172 - 40034302.

During the day, it was reported that the enemy had several btys of arty well forward in the salient, but later observation could not locate them. Possibly, derelict tanks in the area still have their guns in action and their flashes were mistaken for arty.

The Tac R at 1830 hrs disclosed that there were about 10 tanks inside the salient, but could not say just how many of these were derelict.

It was also reported that about 200 M T and 40/50 AFVs were stationary in the area 394431.

4. AERIAL ACTIVITY

Four air raids were made by the enemy on 2 May. The first two at 0746 and 0800 hrs were recce flights, each made by one J U 88. At 1405 hrs 12 J U 87's made a dive-bombing attack on the harbour and one of the heavy AA sites. 44 bombs were dropped, but there was only one casualty. One Breda and a height finder were damaged. At 1815 hrs a large no. of M E 110's carried out a machine-gunning attack on the fwd troops and along the escarpment through PILASTRINO. One plane was forced down by S A fire from the 2/1 Pnr Bn and the pilot and operator captured. At least two others were brought down by AA guns.

(see over)

5. ENEMY PLANES IN USE OVER TOBRUCH.

The following figures show the number and types of enemy planes seen over TOBRUCH perimeter and harbour between 9 Apr and 30 April :-

J U 87	..	386
J U 88	..	120
M E 110	..	37
M E 119	..	83 (first seen 22 Apr)
Dornier	..	11
Henschel	..	4
Heinkel	..	4
Unident- ified	..	32

K. Shaw's hand
for Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Distribution : As per Summary No 25.

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 27

Copy No. 14.
HQ 9 Aust Div

Compiled from Information received up to 0900 hrs 4 May

Ref Map - TOBRUCH 1 :50,000

1. GENERAL

(a) A determined counter-attack was made on night 3/4 May by the 18 Bde on the enemy in the MEDAUUAR salient. It was supported by Arty, tanks and M Gs, but was broken off owing to the bold handling of the enemy's M Gs, his use of flame-throwers and the presence of considerable armoured units which prevented the attack from developing.

(b) Post R 8 was captured, but otherwise the posns held by ourselves and the enemy remain unchanged.

(c) A unit of the Royal Navy carried out a bombardment along the 396 Grid line on the area just South of the DERNA rd.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

15 M/C Bn 15 Armd Div

Coy 1)

2)

3)

SOLLUM Area

4)

5)

TOBRUCH Area

3. ENEMY ORGANISATION

The 15 M/C Bn is organised as follows :-

Coys Nos 1 to 4 incl are each M/C Rifle Coys, Coy No 5 being the support coy. This support Coy is divided into three pls

- No 1 Pl	A Tk Pl
No 2 Pl	Rifle Pl
No 3 Pl	Engr Pl

4. GROUND ACTIVITY

Throughout 3 May the enemy continued his consolidation of the salient.

It was decided to counter-attack his posns on the night 3/4 May using the 18 Bde supported by all available arty, 1 Coy M Gs (less one pl), 12 light tanks and 7 Inf Tanks.

The Bns employed were the 2/9 and 2/12 and their respective start lines were the line thru R 13 and R 14 and the escarpment E and W through S 13.

The 2/9 Bn were to attack to the West to and excluding Hill 209 whilst the 2/12 were to attack to the South, to and incl Hill 209. Both units met with very strong opposition. In the North, the 2/12 met with heavy M G fire and the flame-throwers which held up their advance; in the South-East the 2/9 ran into M G fire and a number of armoured units which prevented their attack from proceeding.

At 0115 hrs, 18 Bde reported that Post R 8 had been captured and that 2 enemy tanks had gone up in flames.

Very bitter fighting continued until 0320 hrs, when it was deemed advisable to disengage the attacking units, and they withdrew to their former locations in a general reserve.

At 0015 hrs, the enemy launched an attack against "A" Coy 2/23 Bn, but it was repulsed with severe enemy losses. Our casualties during the night are not yet certain, but it would appear that

each of the two attacking Bns had incl slightly wounded 100 all ranks. It is impossible to estimate the number of enemy casualties, but fwd posts have already reported large numbers of enemy casualties in front of their posns. (over)

This morning's Tac R revealed that our Arty is doing considerable damage to enemy M T and A F Vs in the salient.

5. ENEMY-AERIAL ACTIVITY

E A made three reconnaissance flights over the TOBRUCH Fortress on 3 May.

On 4 May, a bombing and machine-gunning raid was made in the vicinity of the DERNA Rd and the old Italian Amn Dump. The damage done has not yet been ascertained, but it is thought to be slight.

6. SECURITY

An officer was arrested at 0100 hrs for acting in an indiscreet manner.

He had been asking innumerable questions down at the Quay, and prior to having his identity established, was found to have a P L signal on his person, giving the movements of H.M. ships 'DECOY' and 'DEFENDER'.

The signal was dated 2 May. He intimated that he had the information 'on authority', and that all his Unit knew of the destroyer's arrival on Saturday night.

It is requested that future movements of shipping be treated as MOST SECRET and all Units MUST ensure that this secrecy is observed.

K. Shaw's Lieut
for Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

<u>DIST</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
18 Inf Bde	1-4
20 Inf Bde	5-10
24 Inf Bde	11-14
26 Inf Bde	15-20
3 Armd Bde	21-25
CRA	26-32
3 A Tk Regt	33
RAE	34-37
8 Aust Lt AA Bty	38
Sigs	39-40
DESFORCE	41-42
1 N F	43
TOBRUCH Sub-Area (one for 102 MM)	44-45
204 Gp HQ	46-47
6 Sqn RAF	48-49
AILO	50
SNOIS (one for C in C MED)	51-52
NLO	53
Comd	54
G	55-57
AQ	58-60
AASC	61-62
Medical	63
Ord	64
500 AOD	65
File	66-68
War Diary	69-70
Spares	71-75

REBE

KEB/CGP.

S E C R E T

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No.28

Copy No .13...
5 May 41

Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 5 May

1. GENERAL

During last night, units of 26 Bde took over from 18 Bde Units in the MEDAUUAR salient. There was very little enemy activity reported.

The arty carried out battery tasks and harrassing fire during the night 4/5 May.

Enemy air activity was increased over TOBRUCH yesterday, and the despicable attack on the hospital ship 'KARAPARA' has been established as deliberate. It has been stated that "the sea around the ship was a seething cauldron of near misses, and it seemed but a matter of moments before she should disappear altogether.

One bomb landed in the space between the engine room and boiler room and started a fire on board".

The fire was eventually subdued and the ship sailed later.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

Patrols and movement of enemy M T were observed in the area North of BERNA rd on front of 18 CAV. Information has been received that the Arabs in WADI BU CHESCIALA have been given 48 hrs notice to vacate that area.

Active patrolling was carried out during last night, but contacts were not made with the enemy.

4. AIR ACTIVITY

The following incident occurred during a raid on PILASTRINO area about 1935 hrs. 2 May 41 :-

A number of J U 87 escorted by M E 110's and M E 109's dive-bombed the area. The M E 110's flew low and ground 'Strafed'.

One M E 110 was brought down by S A fire from a pioneer unit and the two occupants were captured. On interrogation, the observer admitted that one of his engines was hit by S A fire and stopped.

~~It is suggested that this incident should be widely circulated to troops armed with Brens and rifles, please take note.~~

Even the M E 110, about which there are many stories of an "armoured cockpit" is not invulnerable, and the M E 109, J U 87 and other dive-bombers are well worth "taking on" with .303" amm.

(b) On five occasions, E A were observed making a recce over TOBRUCH. In addition, there were 8 dive-bombing and machine-gunning attacks. At a height of 300 ft, 4 M E 110 bombed and M G'd area SOUTH of F S D at 1120 hrs. No damage was done.

At 1245 hrs, 2 J U 88's bombed the harbour and town area from a height of 21,000 ft.

The major attacks were carried out at 1826 hrs by 40 J U 87 and an escort of 8 M E 109. A great number of bombs were dropped on Div HQ Area. Some M T incl ambulances were damaged, but considering the amount of bombs dropped, the damage was comparatively slight. The A A report that 4 E A were hit during this raid.

At 1836 hrs, 12 J U 87 and 4 M E 109 attacked the hospital ship. 60 Bombs were dropped, one of which hit the ship. The intense AA barrage caused several J U 87's to turn and drop bombs wide of the ship. 5 hits were registered by the A A during this raid.

(OVER).

5. SECURITY.

An examination of captured Italian documents has revealed that much information of value was obtained by the enemy during the recent operations in the Western Desert of EGYPT and CYRENAICA. It has now been possible for the various Headquarters to assess the accuracy and consequent value to the enemy of this information. As a result, two main points have emerged which require immediate attention :-

(a) The various sources available to our opponents; only if we understand their methods can efficient counter measures be taken.

(b) Much accurate knowledge of our movements was possessed by the Italians, but this information was not used by them to the best possible advantage. As a result, the impression is prevalent that our present security precautions are sufficient. While admittedly, the Italians did not make use of the opportunities offered, the German Army most certainly will not make the same mistake.

Everything possible should therefore be done to ensure that no similar opportunities are presented to an enemy who will not fail to take advantage of them.

K.E. Bishop Capt for Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

<u>DIST</u>	<u>COPY No.</u>
18 Inf Bde	1-4
20 Inf Bde	5-10
24 Inf Bde	11-14
26 Inf Bde	15-20
3 Armd Bde	21-25
CRA	26-32
3 A Tk Regt	33
RAE	34-37
8 Aust Lt AA Bty	38
Sigs	39 -40
DESFORCE	41-42
1 N F	43
TOBRUCH Sub-Area	44-65
204 Gp HQ	66-67
6 Sqn RAF	68-69
AILO	70
SNOIS (one for C in C Med)	71-72
NLO	73
Comd	74
G	75-77
AQ	78-80
AASC	81-82
Medical	83
Ord	84
500 AOD	85
File	86-88
War Diary	89-90
Spares	91-95

9 AUSTRALIAN DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 29

Copy No 13
6 May 41

From information received up to 0900 hrs 6 May 41

Ref Map TOBRUCH 1/50,000 with overprint.

1. GENERAL

There has been little ground activity during the past 24 hrs.

During the night 5/6 May close fighting took place in the vicinity square 400429, but at present the details are unknown.

An enemy bty firing from the square 427424, dropped a number of shells in the harbour and surroundings, but did no damage. One of our btys fired a few rounds C B and the hostile shelling ceased.

It is learned from P of W survivors of the convoy sunk 15 April, that the ships carried tanks, lorries, amm and flame-throwers, the troops being transported numbered about 1300 including specialists in mechanical repairs.

Further details of the Royal Navy's bombardment of TRIPOLI on the 21 Apr have now come to hand. 530 tons of shells were fired. At least 7 ships in the harbour were hit, one sinking immediately, another exploded and burnt out.

The Spanish Quay was hit by two 15" salvos and possibly by four. The "KARAMANLI" mole was repeatedly hit and a fuel depot, the power station, the Government offices and many other important buildings were hit and set on fire.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Attached as Appdx "A" is the DESFORCE estimate of German Forces in the TOBRUCH Area 26/4/41 (after deductions for casualties etc).

The only German Units definitely identified here and not included in Appdx "A" are the 104 Lorried Inf Regt (15 Armd Div), and elements of the 15 M/C Bn.

At present it is not possible to estimate exactly how many troops of the 104 Regt are here, but to date only one Bn has been identified.

P of W states that only 4 and 5 Coys 15 M/C Bn are in this area, and that the remainder are still in SOLLUM.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

The enemy continued his policy of consolidation under the cover of machine guns and several attempts by our tps to move fwd were broken up by accurate machine-gun fire.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT (German).

250'Flam' Bomb. This is a large incendiary aerial bomb which may be used possibly against troops and encampments in the Western Desert. The specifications are as follows :-

Length	- 63 "
Width	- 21 "
Weight	- approx 110 kgms

It is said to contain about 16 galls of inflammable liquid. It has a bursting charge of 2.8 lb of T.N.T., which is fired by a flash from a leakage charge of charcoal and magnesium. Usually the liquid is scattered over a 20 yards radius.

(OVER).

5. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY

The enemy made three reconnaissance flights over the harbour and town yesterday.

The first was made by a single JU 88 at about 21,000 ft, the second by a HE 126 escorted by 5 ME 109's, and the third by two ME 109's.

It is probable that the second flight was a photographic reconnaissance. At 1650 hrs, three JU 88's carried out a high-level bombing attack, dropping about two sticks of bombs on the North side of the harbour. Little or no damage resulted.

6. OWN AERIAL ACTIVITY (RAF Air Activity Summary No 1. - 1 to 5 May)

During the past five nights, an average of 10 heavy bombers nightly have been directed against military objectives in the BENGHASI area, where shipping in the harbour and concentrations of JU 52's on BENINA Aerodrome were successfully attacked. Night attacks have been carried out on BERCA and GAZALA North and South Aerodromes. Approx 15 tons of bombs were dropped on the GAZALA aerodromes a few nights ago. Night bombing attacks have been made on JU 52's on the DERNA aerodrome.

The medium Bomber squadrons have been attacking MT concentrations daily, the targets including MT concentrations between BENGHASI and DERNA as well as in other areas.

These sqns successfully attacked enemy shipping, setting on fire and sinking three ships carrying petrol to BENGHASI.

Long-range Hurricanes have carried out successful attacks against enemy aircraft at BENINA and DERNA and also on enemy MT moving on the roads between these places. Fighter patrols have provided protective patrols over shipping.

It is estimated that during the period under review, approx 14 EA have been destroyed by bombing and 100 MT destroyed or damaged by bombing or ground-strafting.

J. K. H. H. H.
for COB
GS 9 AUST DIV

Distribution as for Summary No 28.

LKS/CGP

9 AUST DIV

I
I
D

2

Length
Width
Weight - approx 110 kmas

3

4

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 30.

7 May 41

(compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 7 May 41)

Ref Map : TOBRUK 1 : 50000 with overprint.

1. GENERAL

An increased amount of movement of enemy MT, inf and tanks has been observed on the RAS EL MEDAUUAR sector North of the DERNA rd.

Enemy consolidation continues in the salient but our own forces have infiltrated forward and the line now roughly follows the NS grid running through R10.

On other sectors there has been little enemy activity.

Counter Bty fire by our arty on night 6/7 May started a large fire in WADI GERIULA. It is possible that this was an ammunition dump previously reported in this area.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

An officer who was captured by the enemy in the salient but escaped, reported that he saw the numeral 111 with either 2 or 3 below it on the shoulder straps of some of the troops who captured him. Further identification of this unit is required.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY.

(a) The enemy have been reported digging in in the following areas:- square 398435, South of 40114301, 39834389, 39684318, 39524343, whilst a new gun position has been reported at 39714393. *(north of DERNA rd)*

(b) During the last few days a number of small attacks, probably by fighting patrols, have been made in the RAS EL MEDAUUAR Sector. In all cases the patrols were pushed back. (An identification from the patrols operating North of the DERNA rd is urgently required).

4. ENEMY METHODS (GERMAN).

1. Flame-throwers. It is reported that the method employing portable flame-throwers is as follows:-

The operator carrying the flame throwing equipment moves forward on foot protected by two tanks. spurts of flame are used to drive troops out of their dugouts, weapon pits etc. and the Machine Guns of the tanks are directed on them as they scatter.

2. Thermos Bombs. In previous THERMOS bombing attacks, the bombs usually have been dropped from a height between 500 and 1500 feet, otherwise they burst or explode on impact.

In today's raid however, they were dropped from a height between 17,000 and 20,000 feet. It is considered likely that the GERMANS have suggested some modification to the bombs or else it has been considerably strengthened for use from high altitudes.

+ notes attached

5. AERIAL ACTIVITY.

The heavy dust storm on 6 May protected the TOBRUK FORTRESS from any enemy air action. However, at 0645 hours 7 May, two planes carried out a high level bombing attack. Six or seven bombs were dropped in the town but very little damage resulted. The same planes dropped at least 60 THERMOS bombs on the areas 41254353 and 41274373. *(both near TOBRUK north of DERNA rd)*

At 1130 hrs several enemy planes carried out dive bombing attacks on the water installations south of the harbour and in the vicinity of the Staging Camp. The exact damage is yet unknown, but is thought to be slight. One of HM Ships brought down a plane during this raid.

Distribution as Summary No. 29 plus
24 Aust A Tk Coy 1 copy.

(Signature)
for Col.
GS 9 Aust Div.

Appendix "A"

German Forces estimated at present in TOBRUCH Area after deduction of casualties at 26/4/41

	Men	Trucks	Med	A.C.'s	L.M.G.	H.M.G.	Sup HMG	A/T Rifle	Lt. Mortars 8 cm	HY Mortars 8 cm	3.7 cm A/T	3.7 cm AA	5 cm A/T	5 cm Guns Tank	7.5 cm Guns	7.5 cm Guns Tk	8.8 cm Guns AA	M T	M C
5th Light Div																			
5th Tank Regt 1 Bn	800	20	24		94		12							19		5		275	82
2nd M G Bn	990				6	42		9	9	6								150	30
8th M G Bn (2/3 Coys only surviving)	424				3	22		4	4	3								64	13
605 A/T Bn	600												27					130	30
39 A/T Bn	600				18						24		9					130	30
606 AA Bn	650				12							36						133	30
1 Bn 33 FLAK Regt	1183				12		24										12	246	93
15th Armd Div																			
115 Lorried Inf Regt	1605			6	68	32	2	18	18	12	6				8			290	162
	6852	20	24	6	213	96	38	31	31	21	30	36	36	19	8	5	12	1418	470

8 May 41

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 31.

Copy No 11....

Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 8 May 41

1.

GENERAL

During night 7/8 May, movement of enemy vehs from West to East was reported on the escarpment South of the el ADEM sector. The air attacks over TOBRUCH yesterday appeared to be directed at the water installations on the southern side of the harbour and in the WADI AUDA.

2.

ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Nothing to report.

3.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) During the morning of 6 May a GERMAN inf patrol attacked the 23 Bn posn at Post S 9. However, with the assistance of arty support and fire from S 8, the post was able to repel the attackers by 0940 hrs. Enemy casualties were at least 6/8. Wounded men were found to be carrying gelignite in tins which were probably portable GERMAN explosive charges as described below. Our casualties were - one killed and one wounded.

(b) At 1735 hrs 7 May, a bty of 51 Fd Regt engaged a party consisting of 10 M T and 100 inf at TRIG 89 (39843 8). They dispersed in a westerly direction over the crest.

(c) At 1915 hrs, 1 RHA reported that 100 vehs were moving from West to East on the escarpment at 41454117. Shortly afterwards, it was reported from the same source that 15 tanks were moving West to East at approx 41074174.

(d) At 1030 hrs 8 May, 1 RHA reported approx 200 mixed M T widely dispersed in area S W pt 209 squares 395426, 395427, 396426, 396427, 397427 and 398427.

(e) It was reported that the small hut South of track at Post S 4 was removed during the night by the enemy. He evidently thought that it was being used as a ranging mark by our arty. It was therefore removed and put to some better use.

(f) Attached as Appdx "A" is a trace showing the dispositions of the enemy and our tps in the RAS EL MEDAUUAR Salient.

4.

ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Portable GERMAN Explosive Charges : GERMAN patrols have been carrying portable charges which could be used either as demolition charges or as the basis of booby traps. These consist of a sealed oblong metal container, painted dark service grey/green, $2\frac{3}{4}$ " " by 2" in section and $7\frac{3}{4}$ " long, weighing about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Three detonator pockets are provided; one in the centre of the top; one in the centre of one narrow side and one $2\frac{1}{2}$ " down from the top in one of the broader sides. These pockets are threaded at the top to receive a "pull" type of flash cap igniter which is carried separately and screwed in after the detonator is placed in the pocket. As a demolition charge the most convenient detonator pocket could be used and the charge fired by pulling the igniter with a long string. As a booby trap, more than one detonator and igniter could be used with trip-wires or strings connected to each. Information is sought regarding the employment of these charges for either purposes.

(OVER)

ENEMY EQUIPMENT (continued)

A.F.V. Signal Flags.

Attached as Appdx "B" is a reproduction of a captured GERMAN AFV flag signalling code. As only single coloured flags have been captured and these fitted with steel clips, it would appear that double coloured signals are made up with two flags.

5. AIR ACTIVITY

(a) At 1612 hrs 40 J U 87/88, some M E 109 and a few C R 42 dive-bombed the South side of the harbour from a height of 5000 ft. A number of 1000 lb bombs were dropped and one of H M ships was sunk.

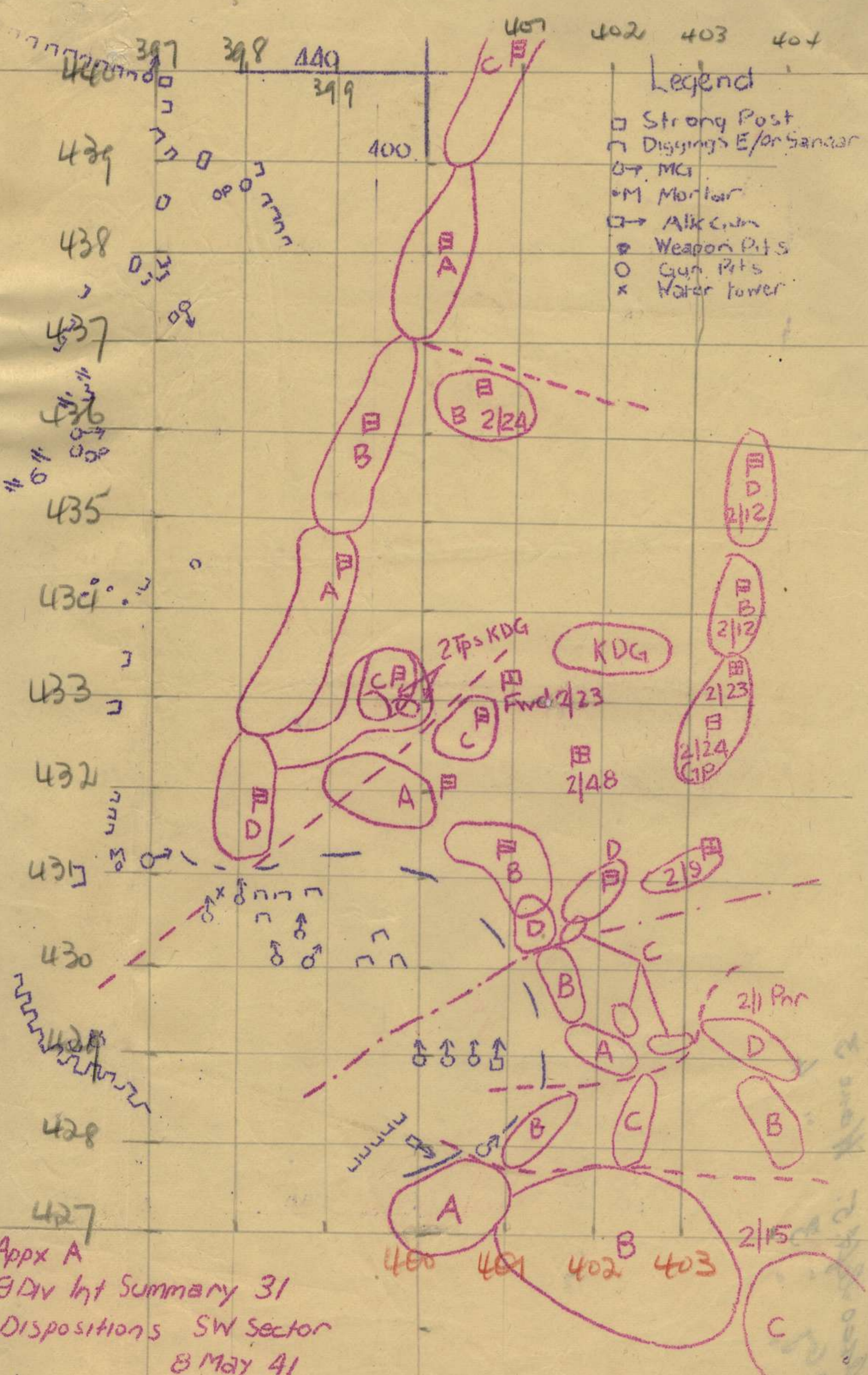
(b) At 2240 hrs, one unidentified plane, at a height of 12,000 ft, carried out a high-level bombing attack on the Northern point of the harbour. As on the previous night, another plane glided in with engines shut off, and dropped thermos bombs in the same area as the previous night. Special observers have obtained an idea of his line of approach and a shooting party will be arranged for to-night.

K E Bishop Capt for Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

DISTRIBUTION

COPY NO.

18 Inf Bde	1-4
20 Inf Bde	5-10
24 Inf Bde	11-14
26 Inf Bde	15-20
3 Armd Bde	21-25
CRA	26-32
3 A Tk Regt	33
24 A Tk Coy	34
RAE	35-39
4 AA Bde	40-42
8 Aust Lt AA Bty	43
Sigs	44-45
L N F	46
DESFORCE	47-48
TOBRUCH Sub-Area	49-68
RAF Liaison Sec TOBRUCH	69-71
SNOIS (one for C in C MED)	72-73
NLO	74
Comd	75
G	76 -78
AQ	79-81
AASC	82-83
Medical	84
Ord	85
500 AOD	86
File	87-89
War Diary	90-91
Spares	92-96



Legend

- Strong Post
- Digging E/or Sandbag
- MG
- M Mortar
- Machine Gun
- Weapon Pits
- Gun Pits
- x Water tower

Appx A
 9 Div Int Summary 31
 Dispositions SW Sector
 8 May 41

GERMAN A.F.V. FLAG SIGNALLING CODE

Appx B. 9Div Int Summary 31

FLAG ERECT



CONFORM



EXTEND



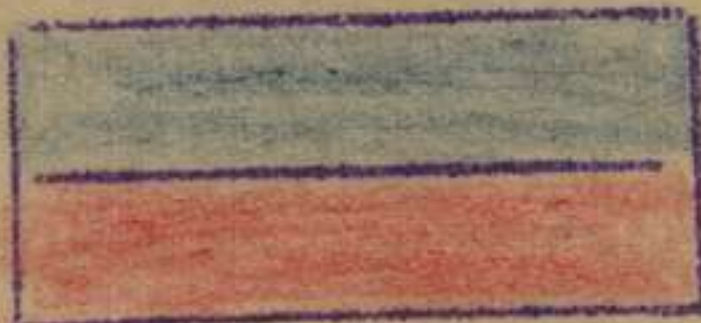
ACTION



TAKE POST



RIGHT WHEEL



TURRET DOWN

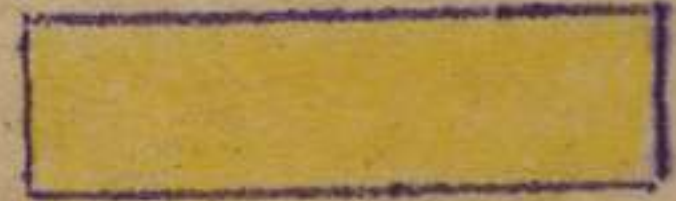


OUT OF ACTION



LEADER HERE

FLAG WAVED



LINE AHEAD



ARROWHEAD



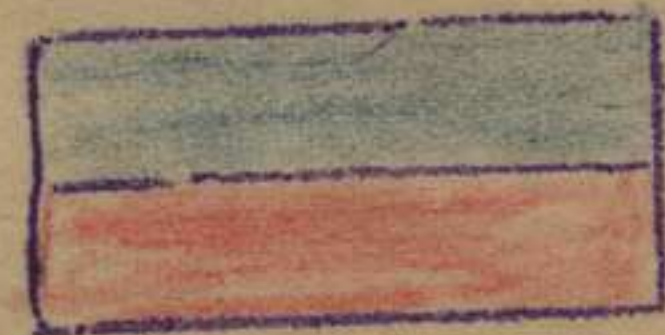
ENEMY TANKS



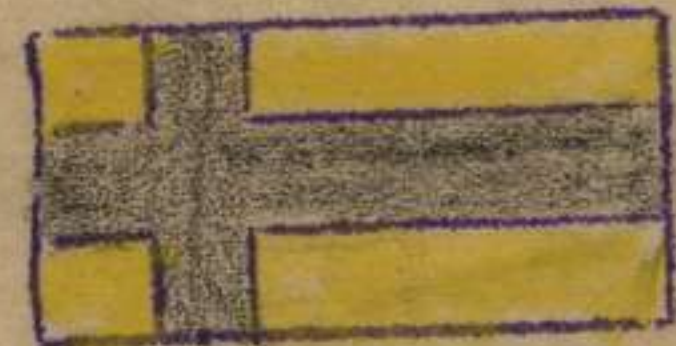
BROAD ARROWHEAD



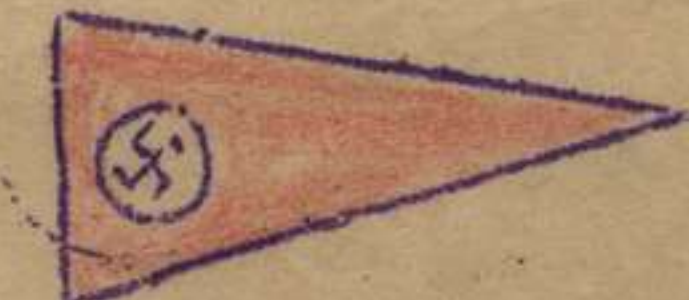
LEFT WHEEL



TANKS ABOUT



SOS



OWN TANKS

9 May 41

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 32.(from information received up to 1300 hrs 9 May 41).

Ref. Map TOBRUK 1:50,000 with overprint.

1. GENERAL.

- (a) Concentrations of MT in the TOBRUK area appear to be diminishing considerably, the Tac R 8 May reporting only 140 vehicles in the area ACROMA - EL ADEM. At the same time an increase of MT is reported in the GAMBUT area and a corresponding decrease at BU AMUD.
- (b) Patrols have reported that the enemy are using dummy figures and section posts etc. but at present it is impossible to say whether these are expected to draw our arty fire or whether the enemy's shortage of infantry has been responsible for their construction.
- (c) Four flights were made by EA over the fortress area yesterday but no bombs were dropped.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATION.

- (a) 9 Aust Div Intelligence Summary No. 30 para 2, refers to the numeral lll being seen on an enemy shoulder strap. It is now considered that this would be the letter "M" in old GERMAN script as worn by Machine Gun units. The figure below the "M" was said to be either 2 or 3. This rather indicates that the troops seen were from the 2 MG Regt which is known to be in the area.
- (b) Attached as Appendix "A" is the apparent enemy order of battle in this area.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY.

The enemy spasmodically machine gunned and shelled areas in the Salient and SOUTH of the DERNA rd in the MEDAUUAR sector during night 8/9.

A number of shells also fell in the PILASTRINO area and at 0145 hrs and old ITALIAN ammunition dump was destroyed.

An enemy 3 gun bty was reported to be taking up a posn at 39644315. As soon as they opened fire, our arty put down some CB fire and the enemy shelling ceased.

There was considerable movement of MT during night 8/9 May particularly in the vicinity of the water tower 39784007 and behind the escarpment in the PILASTRINO Sector. In the latter case they were reported as moving from WEST to EAST.

Active patrolling was again carried out by our forward units. The patrols established that the enemy continues his digging and wiring in the Salient and that the area in vicinity Pt 173, 39954304 is completely occupied and wired, Pt 173 being used as an OP.

(Over)

4. ENEMY METHODS.

A patrol from 18 CAV Regt found a post area 39814388 manned by 30 straw filled dummies. It was completely surrounded by wire and rope and had objects which looked like bombs hanging on the wire. These are thought to be some type of boobytrap.

20 Aust Inf Bde reports that the enemy have been seen stripping their dead so it is considered likely that the dummies are being dressed in GERMAN uniforms and placed in ITALIAN localities to give the impression that a greater number of GERMAN troops are in the area.

Further information regarding the use of these dummies is required.

5. AERIAL ACTIVITY.

On 8 May four high-level flights were made by small numbers of EA over the TOBRUK FORTRESS area. In all cases three or four planes only were used. No bombing was reported.

At 1157 hrs 9 May five JU 88s made a high-level bombing attack (13,000 ft) on the harbour area. Five sticks of bombs were dropped some falling SOUTH of the hospital whilst others fell in the harbour and in the area SOUTH of it. No damage has been reported.

Our long range aircraft carried out a successful raid on grounded EA and a small petrol dump at MECHILI.

W. H. Shaw
per Col.
GS 9 Aust Div.

DISTRIBUTION.

As per Intelligence Summary No. 31.

APPX "A" TO 9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 32.

POSSIBLE ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE -TOBRUCH AREA

GERMAN-AFRICA CORPS - G.O.C. Gen ROMMEL

5 Light Div : - G.O.C. Maj.-Gen STREICH

5 Tk Regt (1 Bn) (20 Lt, 24 Med Tks)
2 M G Bn
8 M G Bn (2 or 3 Coys Only)
605 A Tk Bn
39 A Tk Bn
606 A A Bn
33 A A Regt 1 Bn

5 Armd Div : - G.O.C. Maj.-Gen KUHNE or Maj.-Gen FOLKERS

115 Lorried Inf Regt
104 Lorried Inf Regt (one Bn only identified)
15 M/C Bn (Coys Nos 4 & 5 only)

10 ITALIAN Army Corps - G.O.C. Gen Mario NICOLOSI

27 BRESCIA Div - G.O.C. Maj.-Gen CREMASCOLI (possibly killed)

19 Inf Regt
20 Inf Regt (2 Bns only)
1 Mob Arty Regt (less 2 Btys)
2 Mob Arty Regt (2 Gps only)
502 Bty (8 20 m.m. A/Tk Guns)

102 TRENTO DIV - G.O.C. Maj. Gen NUOVOLONI :

61 Mot Inf Regt (2 Bns only)
7 Bersagliere Regt
8 M/C Bn., 10, 11 Lorried Inf Bns
551 M G Bn
102 A/Tk Coy (47/32 Guns)
104 A/Tk Coy do
106 A/Tk Coy do
46 Arty Regt 1 Gp Only
96 W/T Section

132 ARIETE DIV - G.O.C. Maj.-Gen BALDASSARE :

32 Tank Regt (35 Med 45 light tanks)
8 Bersagliere Regt
3 M/C Bn 5 12 Lorried Inf Bns
132 Arty Regt.

Compiled from information received up to 1300

Copy No. //... 11

hrs 10 May 41.

10 May 41

Ref Map TOBRUCH 1;50,000 with over print.

1. GENERAL

(a) Considerable movt of M T and tanks was reported along the escarpment to the South of the Fortress and also along the BARDIA rd.

(b) Our patrols have been active on all fronts resulting in 31 P O Ws being taken in the MEDAUUAR sector and 2 in the SIDI DAUD sector. One platoon in the salient ran into MMG fire and suffered some casualties.

(c) The successful evacuation of 350 sick or wounded personnel was carried out 9 May.

(d) There has been very little enemy air activity during the past 24 hrs.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

PO Ws taken on the SIDI DAUD front were from the 7 BERSAGLIERE Regt, 8 M/C Bn.

P of W taken on the RAS EL MEDAUUAR Sector were from an independent Labour Coy, formed from several units of the TRENTO and BRESCIA Divs.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) Our arty carried out a successful shoot against an enemy OP located at pt 173 (39954305). Several enemy troops, probably the F O O and his staff were seen dispersing after our shelling began.

(b) 1 N F have been firing "opportunity" shoots and one pl report having knocked out a L A and a sniping gun.

(c) Carriers from the 24 Aust Inf Bde covered wide areas in the daylight patrolling in the SIDI DAUD sector. One patrol ran into a coy of the 8 BERSAGLIERE Bn, which it engaged with Vickers and Bren Guns, finally withdrawing under fire and bringing in two prisoners.

(d) A Pl from 2/1 Pioneer Bn ran into by MMG fire in the MEDAUUAR salient. They suffered some casualties having 1 OR killed and one offr and one OR wounded.

(e) 2/23 Bn patrol surprised an independent Coy of labourers (ITALIAN) working on defences in the area 39624338. Thirty-one of these were captured before the coy was able to withdraw. 34(2)

(f) At 0753 hrs today 4 tanks thought to be GERMAN Mk III appeared in the EL ADEM sector opposite posts R 69 and R 71. They opened fire on these posts with MMGs and 2 pdrs but made off when our arty engaged them.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.

A German document captured in GREECE gives the particulars of a new GERMAN A/Tk weapon.

It is called the HY A/TK RIFLE 41.

4. (contd.)

It calibre tapers from 28 mm at the breech to 20 mm at the muzzle. It is fitted with a liquid recuperator and muzzle brake. The gun is not mounted on a carriage but mounted or dismounted can be carried by 5 men

It is reported to have a MV of 6250 feet per sec. The projectile has a special driving band which is compressed by the tapering barrel and develops a streamlined tail. This projectile is a solid grain shaped core in an aluminium sheet.

The life of the barrel is reported as 400 rds.

5. AERIAL ACTIVITY

The damage done in the air raid on TOBRUK harbour at 1157 hrs 9 May was reported in Int Summary 32 as being negligible. It has now been assessed as follows :-

The No.4 jetty was damaged, one stevedore was killed and one offr and three stevedores wounded.

The only aerial activity reported during the past 24 hrs was a flight by a single unidentified plane flying at 18000 ft. at 0138 hrs. It approached from the NW and when challenged made off to the EAST.

J. Shaw
for Col.
GS 9 Aust Div.

Distribution :-

As per summary No.32

1914 Plans

S E C R E T

LES/RNN

Copy No. 13

11 May 41.

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No.34

Compiled from information received up to 1300 hrs 11 May 41.

Ref Map : TOBRUK 1/50,000 with overprint.

1. GENERAL

The situation generally remains unchanged. Although no major operations have been undertaken, our arty, MGs, patrols and Naval units continue to harrass the enemy at every available opportunity. Another successful evacuation of wounded personnel was carried out by the Royal Navy on 10 May.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

The Independent Labour Coy reported in 9 Aust Div I Summary No.33 have now been identified as part of the 27 BRESCIA Engineer Bn.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

- (a) The enemy are reported to be occupying sangars at 39644342 and from 39704320 to 39714324.
A MG post has been located at 39874309 and at least five small posts in line between 39954304 and 40064304.
- (b) Considerable movt of enemy MT was heard in the distance from posts on the Southern Front. No dust was seen so it was impossible to decide which way the vehicles were moving.
- (c) Our arty continues to harrass enemy movt. Yesterday MT and Amd/C and inf were enagaged and dispersed.
- (d) MGs from the 1 NFs operating well fwd in the salient report having successfully engaged two enemy LMGs and a truck load of inf.
- (e) A carrier patrol from the 24 Bde went out to a point approx 425418 where they contacted 300 ITALIANS working presumably on defences. These workmen were unarmed but had four medium tks nearby apparently carrying out a protective role. The carriers cruised amongst the workmen causing havoc with their brens, Vickers and Grenades. Finally they withdrew before the tks were able to start up.
- (f) One of HM Ships carried out a bombardment of the GAZALA South aerodrome. 70 EA were previously reported as being on this drome.

4. AERIAL ACTIVITY

1436 Hrs 10 May 3 unidentified EA made a high level bombing attack from 20,000 ft.. Apparently the attack was directed at the harbour but the bombs fell on the NORTH pt near the coastal btys. They did no damage but caused five minor casualties to tps swimming in the area. 1745 hrs on the 10 May 4 ME 110s carried out ground strafing against the fwd elements of 18 CAV. High explosive bullets were used but no casualties occurred. 0400 hrs 11 May one unidentified EA dropped 4 bombs in the SW. It is not known whether they fell inside or outside the perimeter. Our long range aircraft shot down an ME 109 trying to take off the GAZALA lg. A number of other EA were shot up on the grd.

Khaw
1st Col
GS 9 Aust Div.

Distribution : As per Summary No.33

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 35

Copy No
12 May 41Compiled from information received up to 1300 hrs

Ref : TOBRUCH - 1/50,000 with overprint.

1. GENERAL.

The situation generally remains unchanged. The change over between 2/1 Pioneer Bn and the 2/13 Bn on the 30 3de front was effected without incident.

Our patrols were again active during the night and contact was made with enemy in vicinity of FORBES MOUND 39954304. The spasmodic shelling of the MEDAUUAR salient during the night was ineffective. It has now been reported that the Naval bombardment of the GAZALA North landing ground during night 10/11 May produced several fires.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

A patrol of 1 offr and 10 ORs moved to within 100^x of FORBES MOUND, 39954304 at 2230 hrs 11 May. An examination of one of our old posns was carried out, and the amm, rifles and food which we left were found to be intact. The enemy probably thought that they were some form of booby trap.

It has been confirmed that a M G posn has been established near the derelict plane, 39894309.

Once again, considerable enemy M T movt was observed from posts on the Southern front. It was not possible to determine the direction in which the vehicles were moving.

On night 10/11 May, a patrol of 2/17 Bn moved out along el ADEM rd to 8 Kilo post and laid A Tk mines and booby traps across the bitumen rd and adjoining track. No enemy movement or fire was heard during this operation.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

(a) 1000 Kilo Bomb/Mine : It has been confirmed that the enemy is using a bomb/mine (1000 kilos) similar to the G type mine. The approx measurements are 6 ft by 2 ft 2". It is used without the use of a parachute. It is coloured pale blue with a BAKERLITE fin and BAKERLITE collar near the nose. The intention is believed to be for attacks on docks and harbours to detonate on impact with the land, or to become active as a mine in water. It is fitted with a RHEINMETAL fuse (new type) with a complicated BOOBY. It is hoped to produce a full description later.

(b) GERMAN Hand Grenade : The grenade has a dark greenish grey egg-shaped thin steel cover approx 2" diam at centre and 3" long with a raised rim around the middle. In the centre of the grenade and embedded in the brown explosive (which in appearance resembles poor quality gelignite) is a black carbon tube containing a No. 8 detonator. Screwed into this holder is a 5 second delayed action flash cap at the end of which there is a wire loop which protrudes from the top of the grenade; to this wire is attached a green knob of approx 1/2 inch diameter which is in turn screwed to the end of the flash cap.

To fire the grenade, unscrew the green knob and pull; after 5 secs the flash cap will fire the detonator and the grenade will explode.

Owing to the extremely thin casing of the grenade (approx: 1/2 millimetre) it relies almost entirely upon blast for its effect. Att as appx "A" to this summary is a diagram showing the details of this grenade.

5. AERIAL ACTIVITY.

- a. Enemy aerial activity has been confined to daylight recce followed by high level bombing in the early morning.
- b. At 1930 hrs 11 May, 1 HE 126 with approx 4 ME 109 carried out a recce of perimeter at 9000 ft.
- c. At 0530 hrs today 6 bombers at 12000 to 15000 ft carried out a high level bombing attack on the NORTH of TOBRUK. About 20 bombs, some of which appeared to be incendiaries, were dropped, but no damage was reported.

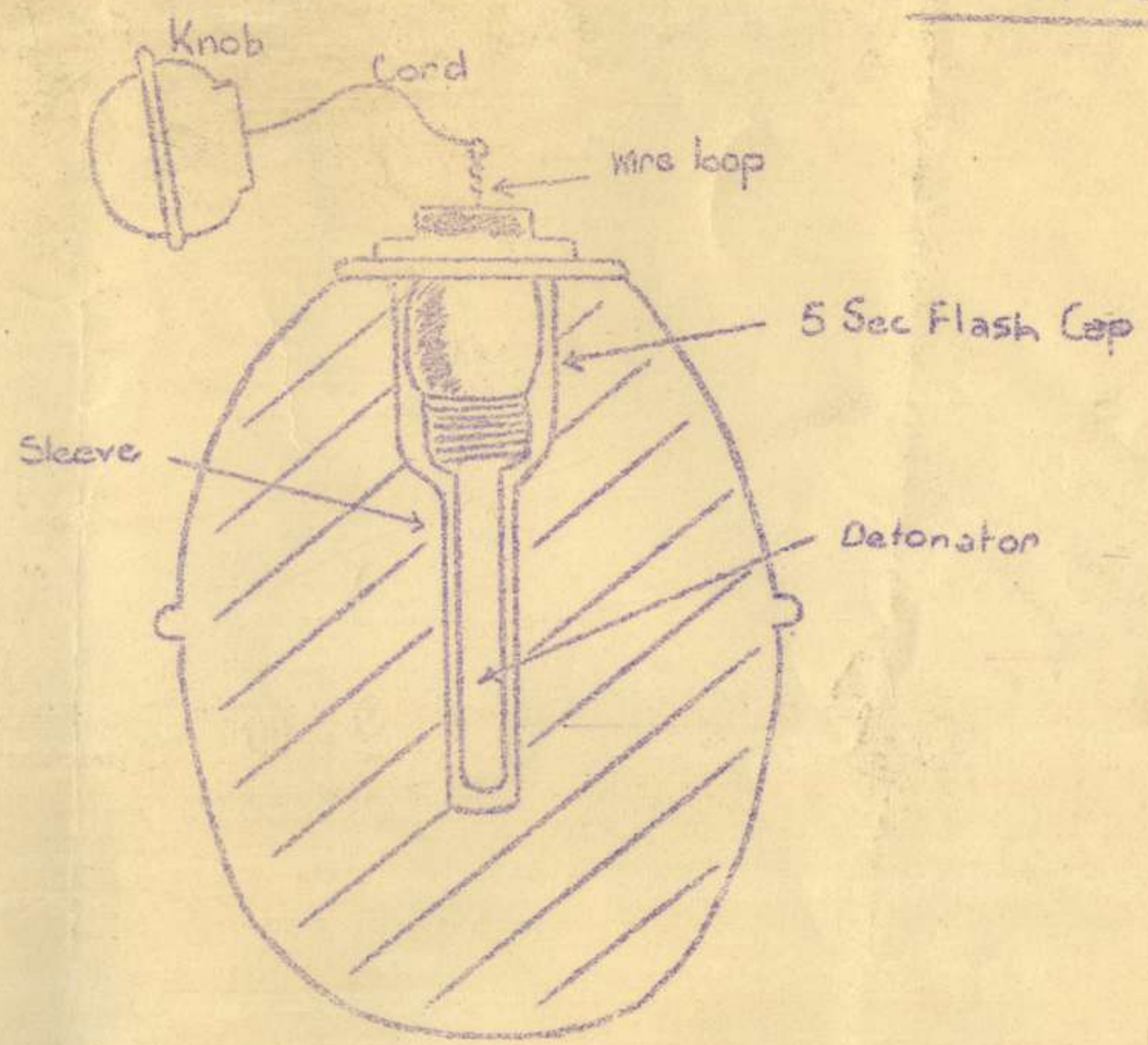
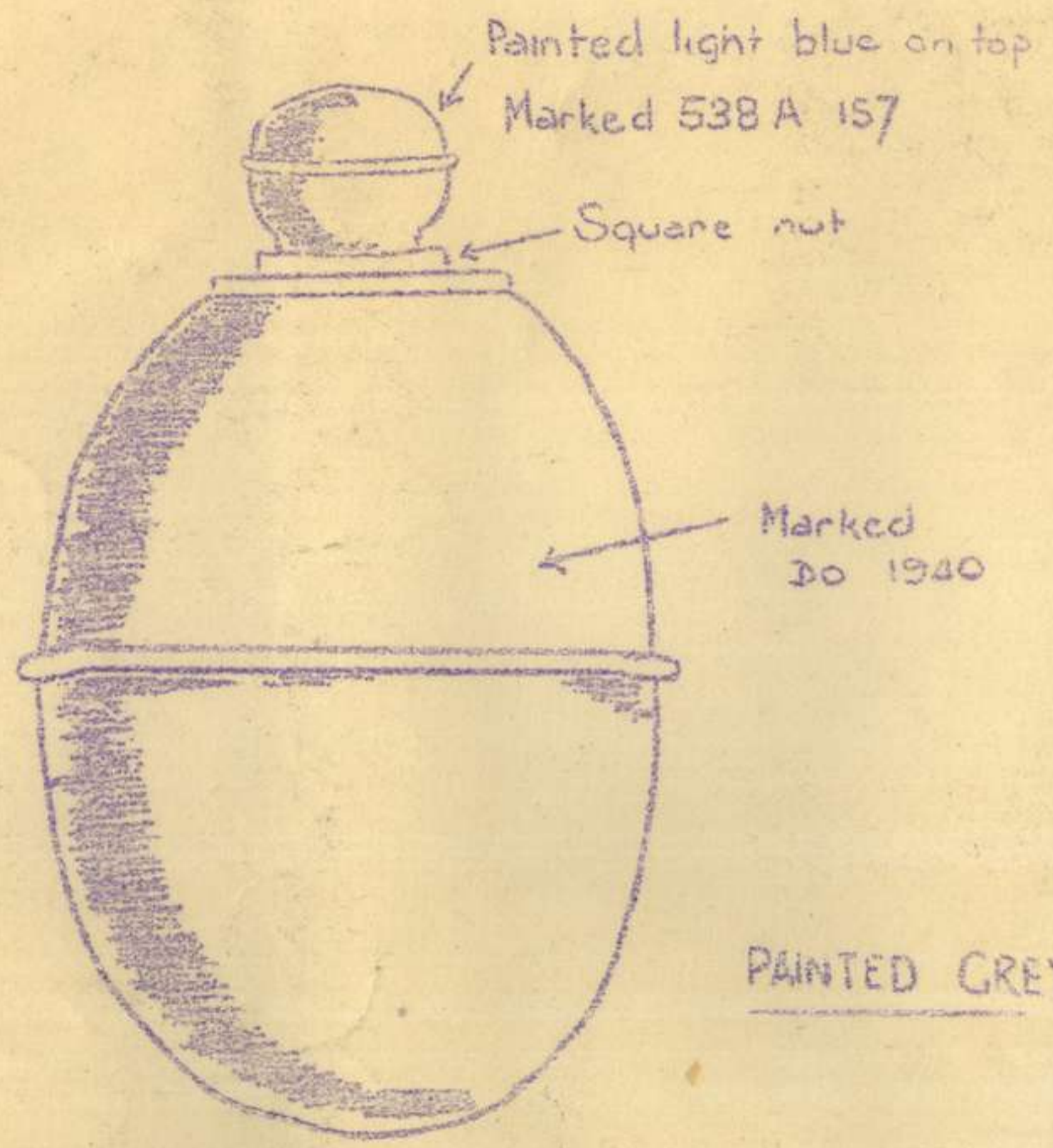
K. E. Bishop Capt
Col.
GS 9 AUST DIV.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.

18 Inf Bde	1-4
20 Inf Bde	5-10
24 Inf Bde	11-14
26 Inf Bde	15-20
3 Armd Bde	21-25
CRA	26-36
3 A/Tk Regt	37
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SNOIS (one for C in C MED)	79-80
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Appx. A. to 9 Aust. Div.
Int. Summary 35



538
A
189

Stamped on bottom

Approx weight 12ozs

SECRET9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 36(Compiled from Information received up to 1300 hrs 13 May)1. GENERAL

The Strat R of yesterday reported that three small mixed enemy cols were advancing into EGYPT via SOFAFI. Our fwd tps are in contact with the enemy Units in the vicinity of SOFAFI. The air report received this morning indicates that movt from SOLLUM across to BUQ BUQ ceased after Hurricane attacks. The same report indicates that all movt South Eastward above escarpment HALFAYA and SOFAFI has ceased.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

The enemy Arty continued their ineffective shelling on the areas of 2/23 and 2/48 Bns. A number of mortar bombs were also fired on the 2/48 Bn area.

A strong fighting patrol from 2/43 Bn moved out to attack enemy posns North of BARDIA rd in vicinity of Wadis BEL GASSEM and GERUILA. The patrol was supported by tanks and carriers but met with extremely heavy M G and arty fire and was forced to withdraw. Our casualties so far reported are - 1 killed and 8 wounded.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Nothing to report.

5. AERIAL ACTIVITY

At 1447 hrs 12 May 8 J U 88's, 30 J U 87's and 2 M E 109's carried out a dive-bombing and M G attack on TOBRUCH Harbour and South shore harbour. A considerable number of bombs were dropped and H M ship 'LADYBIRD' was sunk after sustaining two direct hits. The ship's gunners fought gallantly even after H M ship had been hit and one E A is claimed by the forward gun crew. Four 3.7 inch A A guns and A A equipment were damaged - three E A were brought down and a further six were hit. At midnight 12/13 May, two unidentified E A carried out high-level bombing from a height of 12,000 ft. A number of bombs were dropped North of TOBRUCH, but no damage has been reported. It has been reported that a number of Thermos Bombs were dropped in an area just North of the town

K E Bishop Capt Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Distribution: As per Summary No 35

ADDENDUM

Ref 9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 35 of 12 May 41.

Para(i) : It is regretted that the ambiguous statement regarding the " spasmodic shelling" was interpreted as referring to our gunners. It was intended to read that the enemy shelling was ineffective.

SECRET9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 37(Compiled from information received up to 1300 hrs 14 May)1. GENERAL.

Last night H M Ships bombarded GAZALA North and South L G. The 3 Cruiser Sqn also heavily bombarded DERNA L G. 2 Tps 2/12 Fd Regt were in action in the Salient yesterday, and carried out a successful shoot on enemy mortar positions.

During the past five days air operations have been considerably hampered by sandstorms in the Western Desert and LIBYA. The following is a brief summary of operations carried out despite adverse conditions :-

Heavy bombers have carried out attacks on the shipping in BENGHASI Harbour and enemy aircraft and installations on the aerodromes at BENINA, BARCE, DERNA and GAZALA on three nights. Enemy M T convoys which were moving at night and using lights on the roads between BENGHASI and TOBRUCH were also attacked. The medium bomber squadrons have carried out numerous attacks on enemy aerodromes, damaging aircraft on the ground. Long-range reconnaissance aircraft have reconnoitred as far afield as MALTA and EL AGHEILA. Fighter aircraft, including a South African Squadron, have carried out offensive patrols and protected our shipping. During the period under review, 10 E A have been destroyed by fire and many others damaged.

Yesterday (May 12) a total of 23 sorties were carried out by Hurricanes and fighter Blenheims against advancing enemy cols with such effect, that by 1800 hrs their advance was stopped.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

(a) During the day, the enemy continued his spasmodic shelling, the areas coming in for particular attention being the 2/23 posns North of the DERNA Rd and the 2/48 and 2/23 area N E of the Salient. Two of his guns seemed to be firing from the vicinity of the Water Tower. Another enemy bty posn has been located approx 39724369.

(b) At 1655 hrs, small parties of the enemy were observed in the areas 39764350, 39704330 and 39734348 and were dispersed by small arms fire of 2/23 Bn.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Nothing to report.

5. AIR ACTIVITY

(a) At 1805 hrs 13 May, 1 H E 126 and 2 M E 109 carried out a recce over TOBRUCH at a height of 9,000 to 11,000 ft.

(b) At 1900 hrs 13 May, 1 J U 88 flew at 2,000 ft over the sea. When fired upon, the aircraft fired a two star Red-Green light.

K E Bishop Capt *f* Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Distribution: As for Summary No 36.

2/43
LKS/CGE

SECRET.

Copy No. 13

15 May 41

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 38.

(from information received up to 1200 hrs 15 May 41)

Ref Map : TOBRUK 1:50,000 with overprint.

1. GENERAL.

Our arty and MGs continue to harrass the enemy considerably, particularly in the salient where he appears to be drawing in his horns slightly. During the night 14/15 one of HM Ships carried out the bombardment of enemy AA guns east of the perimeter.

60 6" shells were hurtled into the position thought to be occupied by this bty and al though the enemy did not return the fire and give us a chance of flash spotting, it is considered that the bombardment was successful.

Since the last aerial activity report, the BENGHASI harbour and the aerodromes at BERCA and BENINA have been attacked. Large fires were started in the barracks at BENGHASI and DERNA night 13/14 May.

Very successful attacks were made on enemy aerodromes in GREECE night 13/14 May. The aerodromes at GAMBUT and EL ADEM were attacked with "SPIKES". (At present no information is available re "SPIKES"). On 14 May the enemy made two more dive-bombing attacks on the water installations.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATION.

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY.

(1) At 1500 hrs 14 May a patrol from the 2/10 Bn went out to old 2/24 Bn HQ and brought in 2 vehicles, one of which was loaded with equipment.

(2) A patrol from B Coy 2/13 Bn moved out from their right flank 350x into the salient and dug themselves in and are still holding the ground gained.

(3) Arty supporting the 18 Bde carried out successful shoots on MG posts and enemy snagars in the salient. An officer who observed the shoot reported that a number of the enemy were withdrawing in disorder, many of them screaming. He assisted the arty by bringing his unit's mortars into action.

(4) Further results of the morning's shooting indicate that MG posts at 40124281 were knocked out and 2 dumps in the WADI near R3, destroyed.

(5) It has been reported by the 24 Bde that one of the "I" tanks knocked out 13 May was removed by the enemy during night 14/15 May. Apparently the tank was thought to be a good aiming mark for our arty.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.

GERMAN Aerial Bomb Fuses.

Information to hand indicates that the enemy is endeavouring to prevent us "de-lousing" dud bombs. In the past it has been reasonably easy to decide on the type of fuse in an unexploded shell or bomb by observation, but recently RHINMETAL fuses have been found with metal caps covering their markings. These caps are made of aluminium and are securely held in position by locking rings.

(OVER)

A 1000 lb bomb examined was found to have a much longer fuse sleeve than usual. In addition to being covered the RHINMETAL fuse in this case is so tightly fitted into the sleeve that it is almost impossible to remove it.

It is suspected that some type of booby-trap, possibly a flash ignitor, is attached to the back of the fuse so that if removed by force the ignitor fires the bomb.

5. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Five enemy bombing attacks have been made during the last 24 hours.

1515 hrs 14 May - 14 JU 87s, 4 JU 88s and 2 ME 109s made a dive bombing attack on the Distillery area. A large number of 1000 lb bombs were dropped but no damage was done. One plane was brought down by the AA gunners and at least three others were hit.

1900 hrs 14 May - 4 JU 87s, 8 JU 88s and 4 ME 109s made combined HL and dive-bombing attacks on the heavy AA gun site north point and on the pumping plant in WADI AUDA. The only damage reported was the destruction of one or two MT in the WADI.

0116hrs 15 May - 1 unidentified plane circled over the area but when challenged made off.

0530 hrs 15 May - 4 unidentified planes dropped about 8 bombs and some flares from height of 12,000 to 15,000 ft. The bombs fell in harbour off North point but no damage has been reported.

0620 hrs 15 May - 1 JU 88 dropped four bombs including 3 incendiaries from 25,000 ft. The bombs fell near a heavy AA position and destroyed about 10 cases of ARBT ammunition.

W. H. Harvey

for Col.
GS 9 Aust Div.

Distribution.

As per summary No. 37.

ENEMY EQUIPMENT

GERMAN Aerial Bomb Fuses

Information to hand indicates that the enemy is endeavoring to prevent us "de-fusing" our bombs. In the past it has been reasonably easy to decide on the type of fuse in an exploded shell or bomb by observation, but recently RHINMETAL fuses have been found with metal caps covering their markings. These caps are made of aluminium and are securely held in position by locking rings.

(OVER)

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 39

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 16 May 41)

1. GENERAL

There were several attacks on the Western perimeter and MEDAUUAR salient during night 15/16 May. Several attacks were supported by two or three enemy tanks, but the determined action of our own tps repulsed the enemy with considerable losses while our own casualties were very slight.

The enemy ground attacks have been decreasing in scale and there is now an apparent lack of co-ordination. At the same time our active patrolling and continual harassing action has been a constant source of trouble to the enemy.

This morning an ITALIAN "storm troop" stated that he did not mind being in the Army when his Unit was a considerable distance from the enemy, but as soon as they moved up to a fwd area, his chief desire was to become a prisoner!

The situation at last light on 15 May in the SOLLUM Area was that our troops were on a general line SOLLUM, MUSAID, WAIR HAFID, 507375. Approx 400 prisoners had been taken and at least 6 enemy tanks destroyed.

At 1330 hrs 15 May, 15 E A dive-bombed SOLLUM barracks. At this time, it was believed that the enemy tps were still in occupation. At 1830 hrs 15 May, CAPUZZO was reported to be deserted.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

15 M/C Regt and 34 A/Tk Bn have been identified in SOLLUM Area (15 May 41).

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

1. Two fighting patrols from 2/12 Bn went fwd at first light 15 May and laid up about 800 yds out while our arty registered and concentrated their fire on the enemy. They then went fwd a distance of approx 2000 yds from 'Red Line', killing 3 and wounding 2 of 20 m.m. BREDA Crew at 39684357. Enemy sec posts in WADIS South of DERNA Rd were up. It is reported that as the enemy fled, they discarded their greatcoats and jackets for greater ease of movt. These enemy were entirely ITALIANS and it is estimated that 150 were chased out, many being killed and wounded. Our pls were unable to maintain the speed of the pursuit and our casualties are 7 wounded.

2. At 0236 hrs 16 May, the enemy attacked on front of 18 CAV. The attack was repulsed without penetration by the enemy.

3. At 2200 hrs, 2/10 Bn pushed fwd Pt 173 and 2/9 Bn to pt 170 and consolidated. Two or three counter-attacks were launched by the enemy, supported by 4 tanks, but in all cases were repelled with very few casualties to ourselves.

4. A party of 60 ITALIANS led by a group of special wire-cutting engr tps, made an attack on S 15 and between S 10 and S 11. All the attacking were either killed or captured. Two portable flame-throwers were also captured.

5. A selected patrol from 20 Inf Bde stalked and knocked out one med tank with an S T Grenade. 3 Bredas and 1 field gun in the rear of enemy fwd troops.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

It is reported that the enemy has been known to use a "Shaving Stick" Bomb which explodes when unscrewed. Exact details of the description and working of the bomb are lacking, but it is said to resemble a "Shaving Stick" or an empty film container.

Any person observing such bombs lying about or being dropped, should report the fact immediately to the nearest HQ. The formation concerned will then arrange for expert investigation. The following information is particularly required by this HQ and should be forwarded without delay when available :-

- a. Do the bombs explode only when unscrewed
- b. Are they GERMAN or ITALIAN
- c. Are they dropped in large quantities in a given area or only a few at a time
- d. What is their lethal radius
- e. Any methods of disposal

5. GERMAN METHODS

GERMAN parachute attack on the bridge at CORINTH (GREECE) : The following is an account of the said attack and will be given the widest possible circulation :-

" About 0615 hrs 26 April 41, an intensive low-level bombing attack began over an area of about two miles circumference on either side of the Bridge. About 0650 hrs, this was accompanied by attacks with small cannon and M Gs from fighter aircraft. During this latter period about 2000 parachutists were dropped into the centre of the area, some actually falling into the canal itself. They were dropped from a height of about 200 ft, the parachute appearing to have some special device for making it open rapidly as small puffs of smoke or white powder were seen above the top of each parachute as it opened. In most cases, each parachutist had one or two parachutes accompanying him carrying machine guns and ammunition. The enemy were therefore able to produce intensive M G fire within about two minutes after the parachutists had been dropped. Hitherto, most of us have expected our anti-parachute detachments would be able to shoot up parachutists at leisure as they dropped from a height, but GERMAN technique at CORINTH did not make this possible. "

6. AIR ACTIVITY

1. Summary of own air activity up to daylight hours 15 May :

- i. Heavy bombers have again made nightly attacks on BENGHASI Harbour and the aerodromes at BERCA, BENINA and DERNA. Large fires were started in the Barracks at BENGHASI and DERNA on the night 13/14 May. Spikes were laid on the aerodromes at el ADEM and GAMBUT. Very successful attacks were made by our hy bombers on aerodromes in GREECE on night 13/ 14 May.
- ii. Our hy bombers were again active against aerodromes in CYRENAICA and enemy-occupied aerodromes in GREECE. These raids resulted in 7 E A being confirmed as being destroyed and a number of others damaged. Enemy M T which was withdrawing Westwards as a result of our Army's push was attacked by our medium bombers and fighters. These ' ground strafing' and bombing attacks resulted in 100 M T of the enemy being destroyed. Fighter aircraft also maintained protective patrols over our advancing troops during the course of which 2 M E 109's were shot down.

(continued on next page)

6. AIR ACTIVITY (continued)

2. It has now been definitely established that the gunners of HMS 'SVANA' shot down 1 E A during raid at 1447 hrs.
3. At 1330 hrs 15 May, 1 J U 88 prematurely dropped 4 bombs into the sea NE of NORTH POINT. No damage was done.
4. The cruiser sqn which carried out the bombardment of DERNA L G during night 13/14 May was attacked by J U 88's. 2 E A were shot down and 2 damaged. The ship sustained neither casualties nor damage.

7. SECURITY - Unidentified Lights.

Lights seen at night, possibly signals, have been reported to this HQ by several Units. It is desired that when such lights are seen, the Unit should take immediate steps to investigate them, or notify the Unit in whose area the lights are seen for similar action to be taken.

Details in regard to time, position and results of investigation will also be reported to this HQ.

K. E. Bishop Capt Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Distribution as per "I" Sum.No. 35

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 40

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 17 May 41)

1. GENERAL

a. In the SOLLUM area the fighting continues in area ABU FAYRES. Our fighter patrols carried out continuous ground strafing of enemy L of C, and it is believed that 150 -200 M T incl 6 staff cars, have been destroyed. The enemy disclosed a greater strength in medium tks than was originally anticipated in CAPUZZO area, and in a resulting tank battle we had some 1 N F tanks destroyed.

(After this action, the enemy had a superiority in tks in West BARDIA Area, so operations could not be continued as originally planned.) Our leading tps were SOUTH of HALFAYA SIDI SULEIMAN and after what proved a successful raid, the enemy lost approx 500 POW and a considerable number of AFVs. The present posn (2000 hrs 16 May) is that our tps are holding HALFAYA with fwd elements in SOLLUM, while the mobile force is carrying out offensive harassing action from the SIDI SULEIMAN Area.

b. Fighting continues in the MEDAUUAR salient. Contact was made with Posts S 8 and S 9 and they were NOT captured yesterday. Contact by our patrols during the night, disclosed that our tps were still holding these areas. At 0530 hrs to-day, 2/23 Bn supported by 10 1 N F tanks and arty, attacked Posts S 6 and S 7. Post S 6 was captured with 1 Offr and 18 ORs (all GERMAN). After gaining a foothold on Post S 7, the attack was driven off.

c. From hostile shelling reports, it would appear that the enemy is adopting the practice of moving guns fwd at night, firing a task and moving back before daylight.

d. Att as Appdx "A" are translated extracts of a diary of OBERSTLEUTNANT GUSTAV POHNAT - late Comd 8 M G Bn.

e. Att as Appdx "B" is a copy of a translated ITALIAN Operation Order, which was captured on 16 May 41.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONSa. ITALIAN

A unit not previously identified as a part of the ITALIAN Army organisation, has been located in the TOBRUCH area.

They are known as the '1 SPECIAL ENGINEER RAGRUPPIMENTO', and consists of at least three (3) Coys :-

One Coy of Engr Assault Troops

One Wireless Coy

One Coy of Sappers and Miners

The primary task of the Engr Assault Coy is the destruction of wire obstacles by the use of wire clippers or of gelignite. They are the only one of these Coys actually here, but they state that the other two Coys are definitely in LIBYA. They wear an oval badge on the left upper arm showing a flaming grenade with a dagger, point uppermost and superimposed.

b. GERMAN

The 2 M G Bn, previously reported as being in the el ADEM Sector, has been definitely identified in the MEDAUUAR salient. psow state the entire Bn is in that area.

Coys Nos 1 and 3 of the 33 Engr Bn reported in 9 AUST DIV Intelligence Summary No 20 as being in GREECE, have now been identified as being in the MEDAUUAR Salient.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

a. During afternoon 15 May, Carrier patrols of 2/28 Bn and 2/43 Bn were active. A patrol from 2/28 Bn intercepted 2 small enemy tanks, approaching from area 421417, but showed no desire to be engaged and turned about and retreated. Another patrol contacted an enemy force of 2 medium tks, 5 M T, several M/Cs and at least 30 men in general area 418414. The patrol engaged the enemy from 600 yards, but was forced to withdraw under fire from tks and arty. Later, another carrier patrol attacked a small group of 8 to 12 men in area 422416. patrol was again driven off by a larger force with arty and A Tk weapons.

A further patrol engaged enemy in same area, causing dispersion and casualties.

b. 2/10 Bn carried out active patrolling during night 15/16 May. One patrol of 1 NCO and 6 ORs moved out on a bearing of 329 degs from R 10 for approx 400 yards. Hearing voices, they moved to R 8 to pick up cross reference. The voices were identified as the enemy, and the patrol, after moving fwd saw 20/30 men digging at approx 500 yards NORTH from R 8. The working party was using wheel barrows, and M T was heard moving up to the working party from behind a ridge. The patrol ran into fixed line M G fire from an M G post established 500 yds on a bearing 347 degs mag from R 8. The patrol skirted fixed lines and returned. As this was a recce patrol, the enemy working party was not engaged.

4. G.S. INCENDIARY BOMB

Att as Appx "C" to this summary is a sketch of the above-mentioned bomb, the G.S. Incendiary Bomb (4 lb) used by the R.A.F. in raids on enemy territory. There is a small charge which is not used for demolition, but for igniting the thermite filling which in turn ignites the magnesium casing. On the other end of this bomb, is a tin casing with the striker mechanism plus a small safety lever.

Any person discovering one of these bombs should, on picking it up, catch hold of it by the tin casing and NOT by the iron body, also holding the bomb in a horizontal position, at the same time pressing the safety lever. The overall length of a live bomb is 2 ft. A small sketch is drawn to shew the safety device.

5. AIR ACTIVITY

a. At 1916 hrs 16 May, 2 J U 88 carried out a high-level bombing attack on the Harbour. 12 bombs dropped on NORTH POINT, but no serious damage was reported.

b. At approx 2030 hrs 4 EA MGD el ADEM Sector of perimeter. One offr of 2/48 Bn was killed.

c. From 0410 to 0540 hrs 17 May, 8 unidentified EA dive bombed SOUTH Shore harbour, S W and WEST of Harbour. The EA flew at a height from 10,000 to 16,000 ft above the clouds, and a large no of bombs were dropped. The attack was carried out by single planes at intervals. Planes bombed through the cloud layer, using a few heavy H E, some incendiary and a number of small H E. Bombing was indiscriminate and did not appear to have any particular objective.

K E Bishop Capt for Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Distribution: As per Summary No 39.

APPENDIX "B" TO 9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 40.

OPERATION ORDER 15 May 41.

SECRET.

Distribution as follows:-

No. 369

HQ 1 Bn 20 Inf Regt
HQ 3 Bn 20 Inf Regt
HQ 3 Group 1 Arty Regt

Continuation of previous order.

1. COMPOSITION OF ATTACKING UNITS.

Each Unit consists of the following:-

OC Unit	1	Man	
NCO, Sappers (guastatori) to open up wire	10	Men	1 qualified
Inf carrying MGs	9	"	with 9 MGs
Ing armed with Hand Grenades	8	"	
Sappers carrying Galignite	10	"	2 fully qualified
Inf carrying Amn for LMG	10	"	1 " "
Inf message bearers	2	"	
Inf Stretcher Bearers	2	"	1 with stretcher
Inf Sigs	5	"	with 5 reels of telephone wires
Telephone Engineers	2	"	
Sappers with 2 Flame Throwers	2	"	Under Command of Lieut POLIMENO

2. GENERAL PLAN OF ATTACK.

Each Unit:-

- Shall be preceded by its own sappers in order to effect openings in barbed wire (at least 3 openings per unit).
- Shall follow closely the afore-mentioned sappers in order to avoid possibility of being cut off from them.
- Shall proceed to attack enemy positions according to the plan laid down in instructions given a few days ago.
- Shall, while approaching, find its target by means of tracer bullets fired from a 2 cm MG used for this purpose.
- Shall communicate by means of telephone and message bearers with their respective starting points.

3. Capt BRAZALE shall hold himself throughout the whole action on the starting point of unit No. 2 (2nd Lieut BOBBIO) for the following duties:-

- Collect all messages and requests for fire, information, further supplies and evacuation coming from attacking unit.
- Refer to the under-mentioned messages received and eventual requests for fire and further supplies even if the latter cannot be immediately obtained.
- When necessary he will make accurate notes in conjunction with the officers commanding the attacking units.

4. 2 cm MG PERSONNEL.

3 Machine Gunners (2 cm) placed in pillar boxes F10 and F12 with fixed line fire (3 to 4 rounds every 10 minutes) on Points S15, S13 and S11 will indicate direction of advance to respective units. All displacements or adjustments of positions shall be completed by 1200 hrs. The MG belonging to POLIMENO'S unit in area F shall remain in position all today with a few men to guard it.

(Over)

5. The 1 and 3 Bns will get ready for the afternoon of the 16, 2 Rifle Pls reinforced by 1 MG section, to replace on the night between 16 and 17 day, the attacking units in the positions they will have taken. The Pl of 1 Bn will replace DE MEDIO'S Pl in Point S11, the Pl of the 3 Bn will replace BOBBIO'S Pl in Point S13.

6. MOVEMENTS OF ATTACKING UNITS.

1830 hrs leave unit bases.
1900 " arrive HQ of this Comd.
1930 " the attacking units will form up opposite starting area.
2200 " units will form up on starting line.
2357 " openings effected in wire.
2400 " seizure of points.

7. Official time will be communicated from this Comd during the afternoon.

8. EVACUATION OF WOUNDED.

Just rear of No. 10 point a new First Aid Post has been erected (2nd Lieut FUNARO). Attacking units with aid of unit stretcher bearers will evacuate their wounded in the following manner:-
Units "MOLIMENO" and "BOBBIO'S" to area No. 10.
Unit "DE MEDIO" to area No. 12.
From these areas, personnel of the areas themselves will transport the wounded to RAPs.

(Signed) SENNARO CAFIERE Col. Comdg.

HQ 20 Inf Regt.

9th AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 41

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 18 May)

1. GENERAL

Yesterday was quiet after the counter-attacks during the earlier part of the morning. The situation was slightly confused as our tps were pinned down by mortar and M G fire on the posns which they had reached.

Post 6 was successfully evacuated at 2300 hrs.

Reports from the frontier area indicate that the majority of the enemy's AFVs are in this area. There was vigorous enemy patrolling along the line of the frontier wire during most of yesterday afternoon. The RAF fighters inflicted further severe casualties on enemy convoys, staff cars and D Rs. The enemy air activity was largely confined to attempts at interception of our fighters.

Three enemy convoys sailing to TRIPOLI have been attacked from the air, three ships being badly damaged - one an 8,000 ton vessel. TRIPOLI has been bombed on several nights during the past week and aircraft have also laid mines in and around the harbour.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

A patrol of 18 CAV Regt encountered approx 100 enemy digging in an area overlooking our lines at 39974388 to 39944384. The patrol engaged the enemy and inflicted considerable casualties. The enemy then withdrew - our casualties being 1 Officer killed and 1 OR wounded. One OR was killed. Active patrolling was carried out during the night by units of 18 Inf Bde. A patrol of 1 NCO and 10 ORs from 10 Bn moved out at 2210 and encountered enemy M G fire. A party of 30 enemy were observed moving across the front of our patrol who opened fire.

Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy while ours were two wounded.

Another small patrol of 10 Bn encountered an enemy patrol and working party at 2300 hrs. 20 of enemy were engaged by rifle fire and with grenades. It is considered that some casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and our patrol withdrew without mishap.

A patrol of 1 Offr and 3 ORs from 2/9 Bn located 7 GERMAN M M G and light BREDAS about 40034295.

At 1300 hrs today, an arty O P in BIANCA area observed enemy in some entrenchments. During the ranging by our arty, an enemy tp carrier appeared and hoisted a red flag. A padre and stretcher bearers alighted from the vehicle and proceeded to remove the dead and wounded. Our shelling ceased during this operation.

4. ENEMY METHODS

Att as Appdx "A" are notes on treatment to be expected by British prisoners of war in GERMAN hands.

5. AIR ACTIVITY

a. At 1550 hrs 17 May 20 JU 87 and 6 ME 109 dive-bombed and MG the eastern distillery. A large number of bombs were dropped and a few fell near the distillery, but the remainder were widely distributed to the South. 3 E A were brought down - one by Trig C 307, one by RAF ground defences and one by AA. 4 additional E A were also hit. No damage or casualties sustained.

(b) / At 0700 hrs..

b. At 0700 hrs ^{18th} to-day, one JU 88 carried out a high-level bombing attack on the South side of the harbour. After dropping two bombs at 18,000 ft, the aircraft dived to 8,000 ft to escape damage from the close bursts of the AA fire. No damage was done.

K E Bishop Capt
Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Time of Signature : 1400 hrs.

Distribution : As per Summary No 40.

19 May, 41.

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 42.

(Compiled from Information received up to 1200 hrs 19 May, 41)

1. GENERAL.

At 2000 hrs ^{18th} yesterday four enemy columns attacked our tps at HALFAYA and SIDI SULEIMA N. The enemy withdrew and were attacked by our bombers in 4 waves of 7 aircraft. It is believed that heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Although there was considerable enemy movement observed on the western perimeter at approx 2000 hrs, no attack eventuated. It is probably that reliefs were being effected in enemy fwd areas.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

A POW states that 8 MG Bn has been reinforced up to strength. He stated that at least three coys of the Bn were in vicinity of Pt 167, 402418.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY.

a. A patrol from the 18 Cav Regt reports that wadis up to and including WADI BU CHESCIALA clear of enemy. It appears that one enemy coy area is located approx at Pt 85, 396439 and another 395440.

b. Other units of 18 Bde sent out patrols, and the usual enemy digging activity was reported, but no contact was made with the enemy.

c. A patrol from 2/15 Bn encountered 30/40 enemy. Several casualties were inflicted on the enemy and one German prisoner was taken. Our casualties were 3 wounded.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.

ARMOUR PLATING JU 87: In the JU 87 the pilot is somewhat protected by a backhead piece of 7 mm armour.

Tests were carried out on this plating with the following results:-

a. Breda 20 mm HE, at 200 yds cracked plate and blew hole in it approx diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".

At 400 yds it caused a large dent but the plating had no firm backing and was blown back several yds.

b. Breda 20 mm AP - clean penetration at 400 yds - hole approx diam. 1"

c. Boyes .55 clean penetration at 400 yds.

d. Rifle .303 - did not mark plating at 200 yds.

Regarding the latter however, it must be remembered that the JU 87 presents itself as the best target when it is diving towards you or when pulling out of the dive. In these posns the pilot is not protected by this armour.

5. AIR ACTIVITY.

- a. At 1308 hrs 18 May 1 JU 88 and 2 HE 111 approached in a loose formation at height of 18000 to 20000 ft. On approaching NORTH POINT the aircraft split up and attacked TOBRUK & SOUTH shore simultaneously. In this high level bombing attack 8 bombs were dropped, but no damage was reported.
- b. At 0500 hrs ^{19th} today 3 JU 88 carried out a high level bombing attack on the NORTH & EAST of TOBRUK. 20 HE and a number of incendiaries, some of which fell in an area SW of the town, were dropped. Two vehs were destroyed near an old ITALIAN hospital, but no casualties were sustained.
- c. At 0540 one unidentified EA at 14000 ft dropped 4 bombs in TOBRUK area. No damage or casualties were reported.

Time of Sig. 1335 hrs

K E Bishop Capt Col.
GS 9 AUST DIV.

<u>DIST:</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>
18 Aust Inf Bde	1 - 9
20 do.	10 - 14
24 do.	15 - 19
26 do.	20 - 23
3 Armd Bde	24 - 28
CRA	29 - 39
3 A/Tk Regt	40
RAE	41 - 45
4 AA Bde	46 - 48
8 Aust Lt AA Bty	49
Sigs	50 - 51
1 NF	52
AUSFORCE	53 - 54
DESFORCE	55 - 56
TOBRUK Sub-area	57 - 77
RAF Liaison Sec, TOBRUK	78
SNOIS (one for C in C Med)	79 - 80
NLO	81
Comd	82
G	83 - 85
AQ	86 - 88
AASC	89 - 90
Medical	91
Ord	92
500 AOD	93
File	94 - 96
War Diary	97 - 98
Spares	99 - 104

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 43

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 20 May 41)

Ref : Map TOBRUCH 1/50,000 with overprint

1. GENERAL

- a. The enemy continues his policy of bringing ~~and~~ detachments nightly, constructing sangars and defensive posts etc.
- b. Movement of enemy M T and light tanks was observed during the night. One light tank engaged post at rd block el ADEM Rd.
- c. An enemy minefield is reported to extend from the BARDIA Rd, 6000 yds from the rd block South to the old BARDIA track. The depth is not yet known.
- d. Reports from the SOLLUM area indicate that, although our troops were forced back on 18 May, our armed forces attacked his flank from the South and at 2000 hrs on the same day he was withdrawing, harassed by 4 formations of our bombers. Several enemy AFVs were seen to be abandoned.
The RAF again attacked the enemy L of C. The lack of air activity over TOBRUCH during the past few days, indicates that he has been forced to withdraw many of his planes to protect his L of C.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

- a. Considerable movement of enemy M T and AFVS has been reported during the past 24 hrs. At 1445 hrs, 104 RHA OP at 41244207 reported continued movement of enemy M T across front from East to West.
- b. 25 M T were reported to be in the vicinity of the Water Tower (S6) at 0600 hrs to-day.
- c. At 0730 hrs an enemy tank fired several rounds, incl smoke at the rd block on the el ADEM rd. It was engaged by our arty and withdrew.
- d. At 0730 hrs, an arty O P at 40624228 reported the presence of 150 veh incl 7 tanks area 402419. They were engaged by a section of guns and dispersed.
- e. At 0900 hrs, 2 Lt tanks and a lorry moved through the wire into the salient. Another lorry was abandoned outside the wire.

The usual enemy working parties were reported in the West on the escarpment South of the PILASTRINO Sector last night. The number of sangars and section posts in this area are increasing considerably.

Recently, a P of W from the 8 M G Bn was captured from one of these parties, and he stated that it was the general procedure for the 8 M G Bn to send these digging parties fwd at night. The increasing number of these pits rather indicates that very shortly the 8 M G Bn will be in position in this new line which will put the fwd posts of the PILASTRINO sector within M G range.

Our arty shelling the WADI WEDDAN on the Eastern front set fire to an enemy amm dump. During the past four days, our arty have engaged 5/6 hostile Btys, but the results of our bombardments are not yet known. It is significant, that the AA Bty on the Eastern front, which consistently shelled the harbour, has not been active since it was bombarded by a Navy unit night 14/15.

The CBO reports that the majority of enemy arty appears to be in posn covering the salient, as practically no hostile shelling has been reported from the other sectors.

The enemy has started to practice "cannibalisation" on his derelict M T. It has been observed in square 396426 and in adjacent squares. This signifies that his M T posn is becoming critical, and necessitates his conservation of vehs.

4. ENEMY ORGANISATION

The following list of duties was taken from a document captured from the 33rd Engr Bn. The document was headed "Battle State", and also "For Service Only";-

ADJUTANT : Assistant to the Bn Comdr. Responsible for passing on announcements and orders. Instruction of staff offrs of general position. Maps and War Diary. Arrangements and safety measures for fighting troops.

GEN ADMIN OFFR AND ORD OFFR : Responsible for losses supply and replenishment of arms and equipment, also amm. Instn of staff on general position, receives orders, liaison with other units and recce on direction of comdr.

MESSING OFFR : Bringing up of supplies. Advises Comdr. on questions of defence against gas.

BN CLERK : Responsible for the camouflage and cover of fighting troops. Responsible for runners. Detail and relief of runners and sentries. Responsible for business matters.

BATTLE CLERK : i/c Maps. Instn of runners and direction to be taken. Setting up of the Command flag, selection of routes, preparation of sketches.

GAS NCO : i/c Gas equipment and arms for troops. Responsible for Gas Defence.

SIG TROOP COMDR : Liaison with neighbouring and senior staffs. Comms within the Bn. Responsible for comms when staff takes up new position. Keeps up reserves of recce troops and equipment. Communicates with other Units and O Ps. Understands light signals and signs. Responsible for best means of passing orders and announcements. Also for disturbances and accidents. Directs the technical use of news material. Is responsible for discipline in speech, use of code names etc., and directs sig troop on general position.

NCO FOR VEHS : Is responsible that vehs are always ready to move off.

ADMIN DEPARTMENT : Lorries Sec : arranges spares, fuel etc
Engr Sec : Arranges bringing fwd of amm, engr equipment, explosive and incendiary material.

5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT - GERMAN SHELLS.

The following details of GERMAN shells are published to assist troops in recognising types of shells and thus helping to locate enemy batteries. Sketches of these shells are attached as Appdx "A".

- a. 88 m.m. AA : This H E shell has a screwd-in base with parallel walls and two driving bands of either copper or bi-metallic, fitted into undercut grooves near the base. Two further grooves are formed below the driving bands for the purpose of securing the cartridge case to the shell. For purposes of identification, the groove immediately below the driving bands is painted black, and the grooves between and above the bands, are yellow (see Fig I Appx "A"). The shell is used in guns of the 18 Flak AA.
- b. 75 m.m. separate case : This shell of steel has a screwed-on head and a parallel base fitted with one driving band. The one recovered was painted green and fitted with fuse J Gr Z 23 n A. (Fig II Appx A).
- c. Streamlined 105 m.m. shell with 1 driving band: Fig III Appx "A" shows the principal features of this GERMAN 105 m.m. shell. It has a percussion fuse AZ 23. The shell is streamlined and fitted with a screw-on head. It appears to have a copper driving band. The filling is probably TNT.
- d. Streamlined 105 m.m. with 2 Driving bands : This shell (Fig IV Appx "A") is fitted with two driving bands, 18 m.m. wide, a screwed-on head and has a solid base. It is filled with a yellow explosive contained in a cardboard wrapper. For ranging shell, the base of the filling contains a smoke-box of red phosphorus.
- e. 150 m.m shell with two driving bands : This shell has a solid head and a screwed-in base, the latter having two spanner notches. The base is streamlined and the shell is varnished inside, the filling probably TNT. In certain samples, the filling has been done in loose cartridges with cardboard wrapping. (Fig V Appdx "A").
- f. The 150 m.m. H E Shell : This shell is streamlined with parallel walls, a screwed-in base piece and a head of about 1½ calibres, which is threaded to take a nose fuse. The base is fitted with two driving bands of either copper or bi-metallic (Fig VI Appx "A").

6. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY

During the past 24 hours, this has been practically negligible. One HENSHELL has made several reconnaissance flights over the fwd areas. A flight of 9 plus planes were reported approaching the Fortress from the direction of GAZALA, however, they made off to the South East. Apparently, these were fighters going down to intercept our bombers in the SOLLUM-BARDIA area.

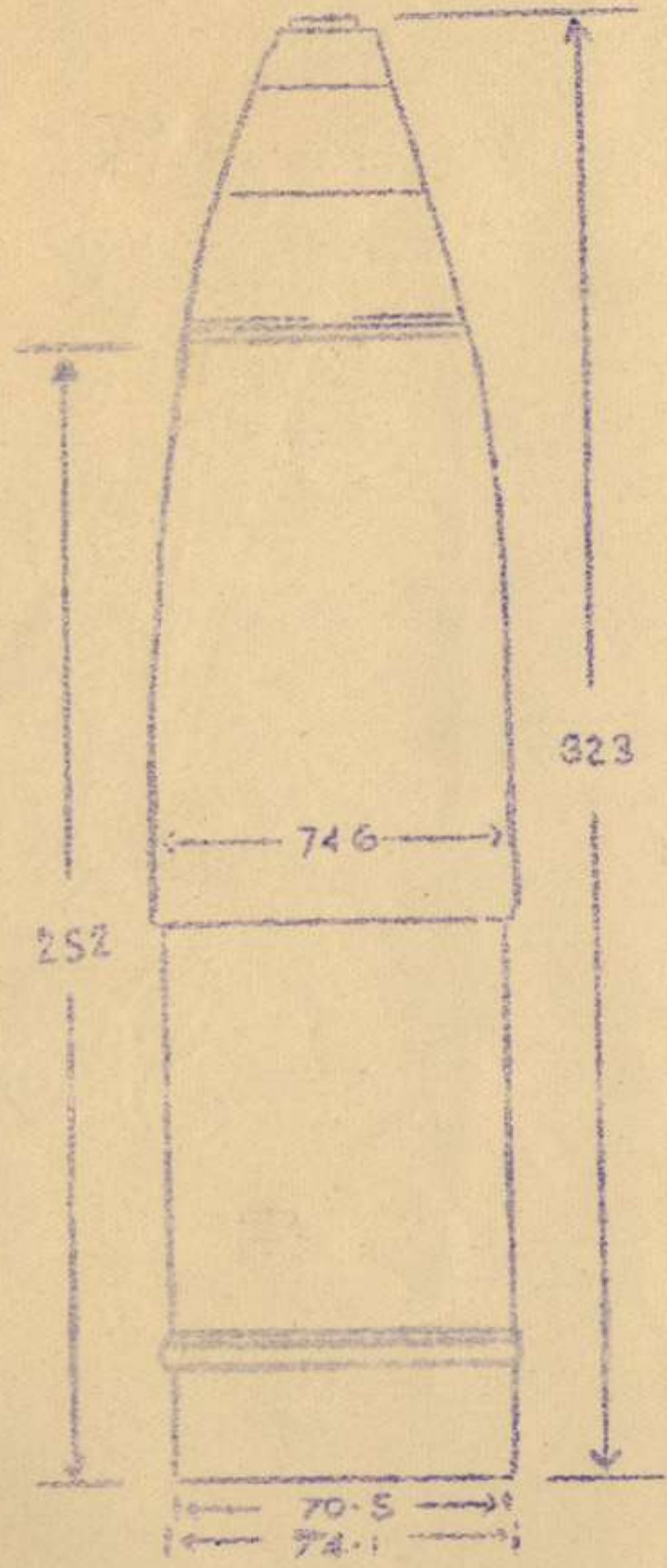
LATE NEWS : Thermos bombs have been reported in the area 40784344 and to the South-West. Probably dropped by enemy planes during the night, 19/20 May.

Shaw's hand
in Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

DISTRIBUTION: As per Summary No 42

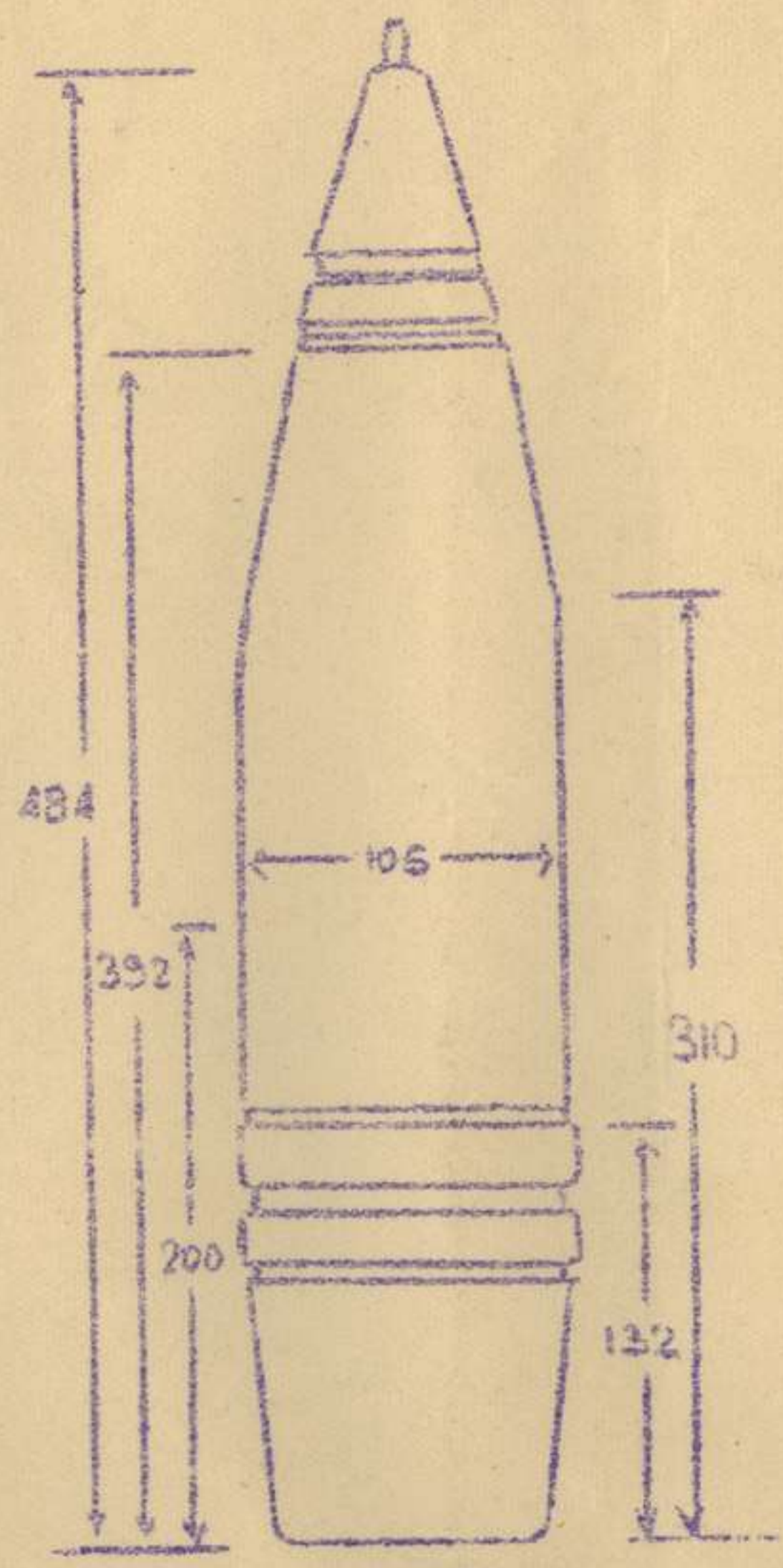
Appa. A.
 301st Int. Surv. 43

FIG II



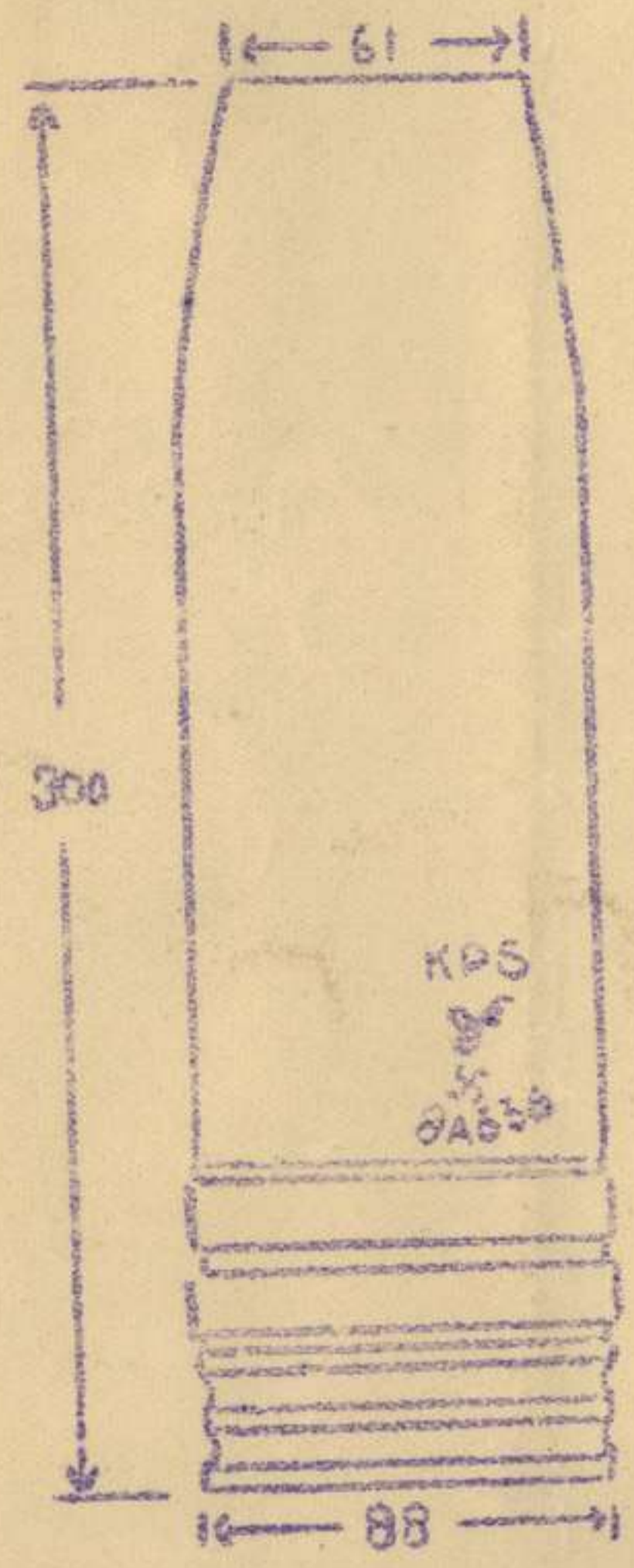
7.5 Cm. Separate Shell

FIG IV



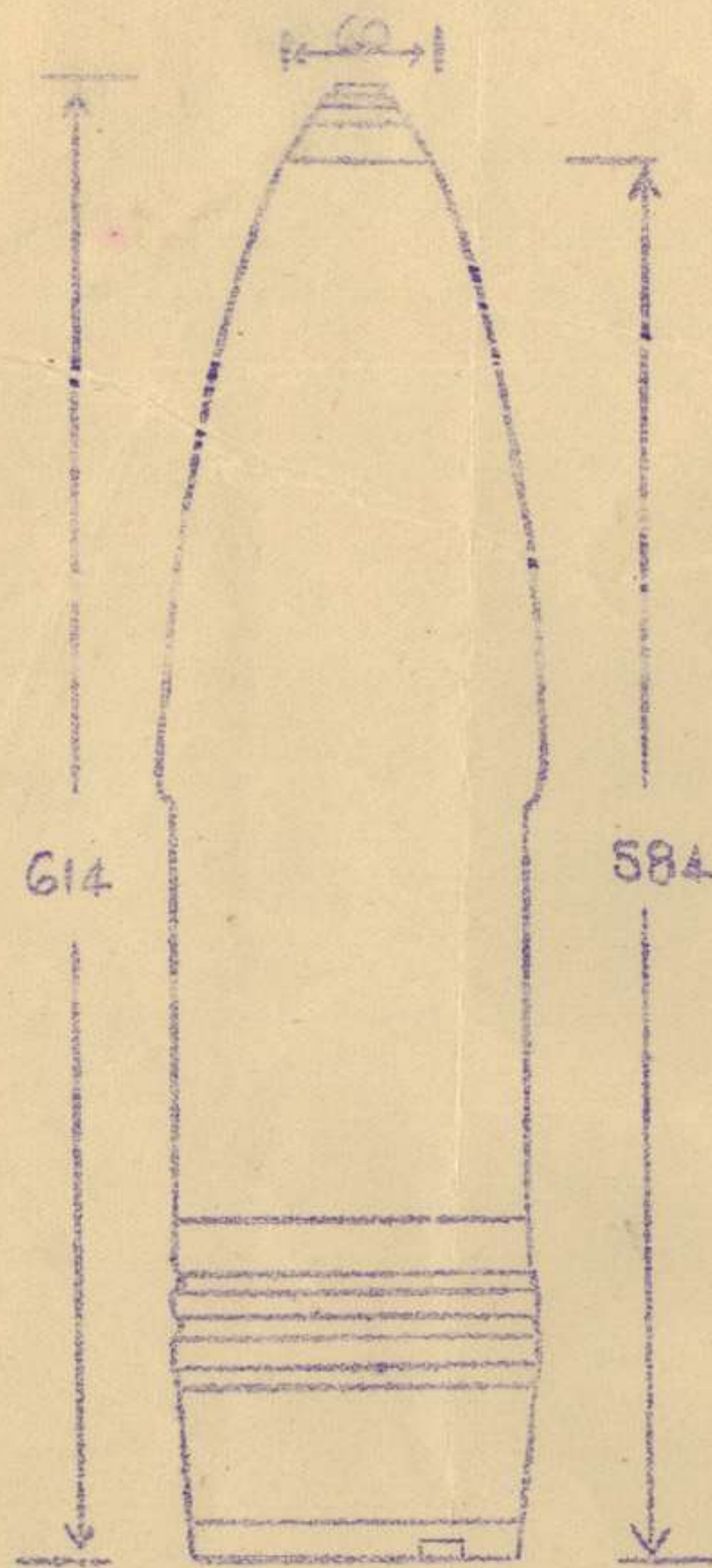
Streamlined 10.5 cm
 Shell - 2 driving bands

FIG I



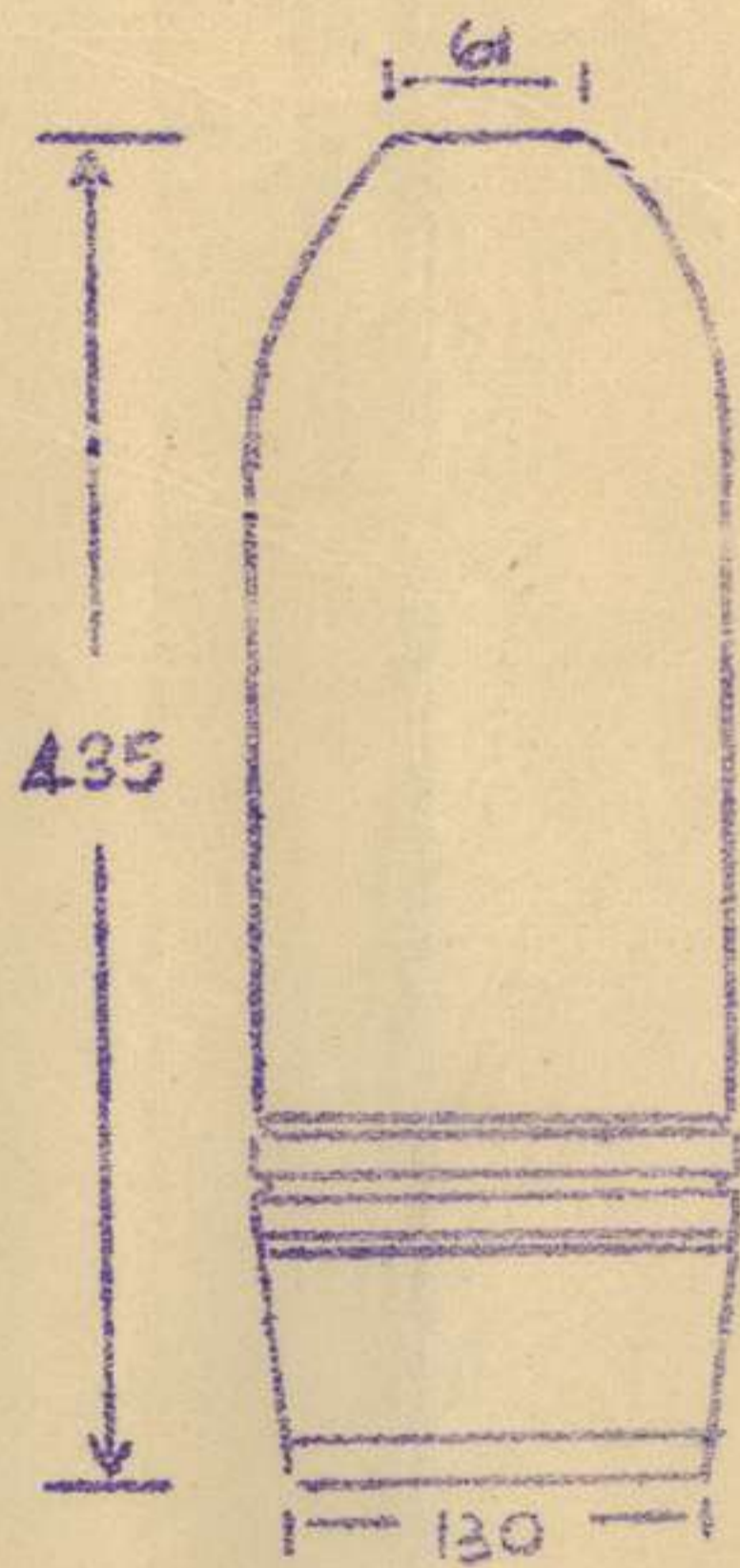
German 8.8 cm. shell speng
 Rate L/4.5 (KZ)

Fig V



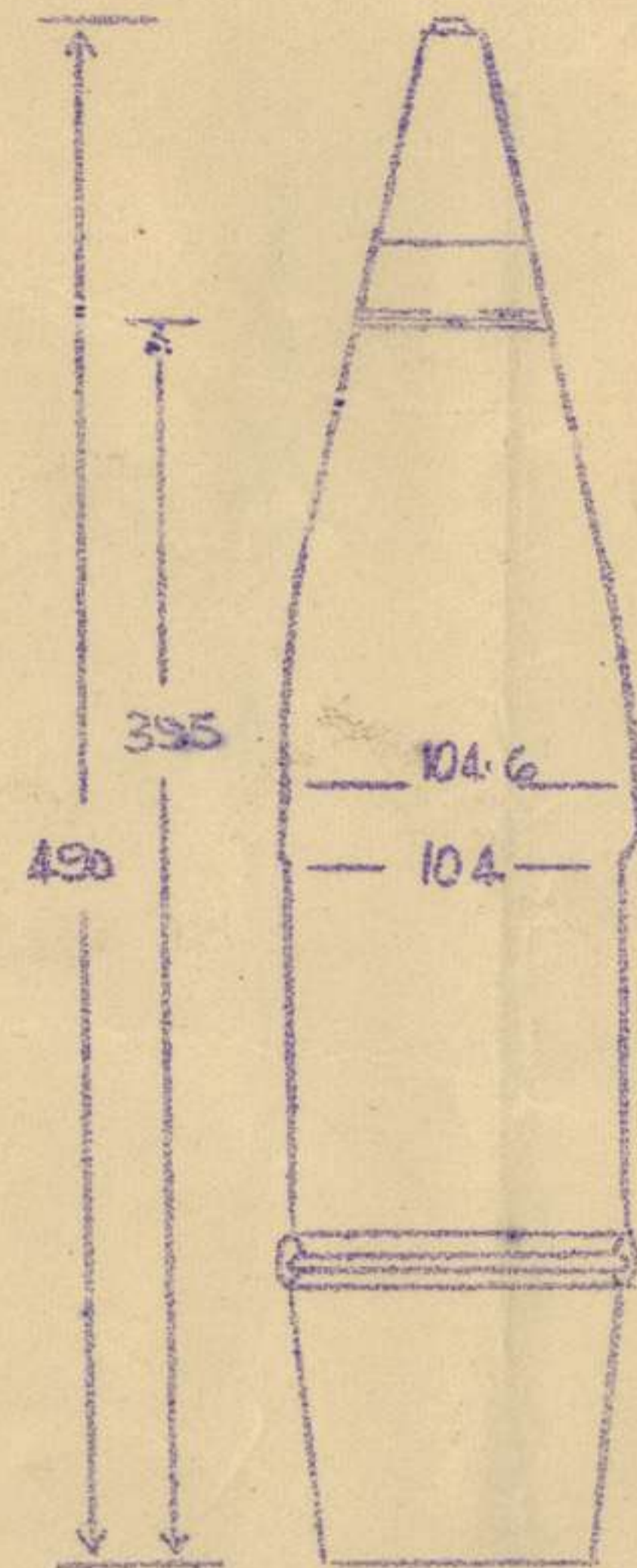
15cm Shell with
2 Driving bands

Fig VI



15cm HE Shell

Fig III



Streamlined 10.5 cm shell
with 1 Driving band

5. AIR ACTIVITY.

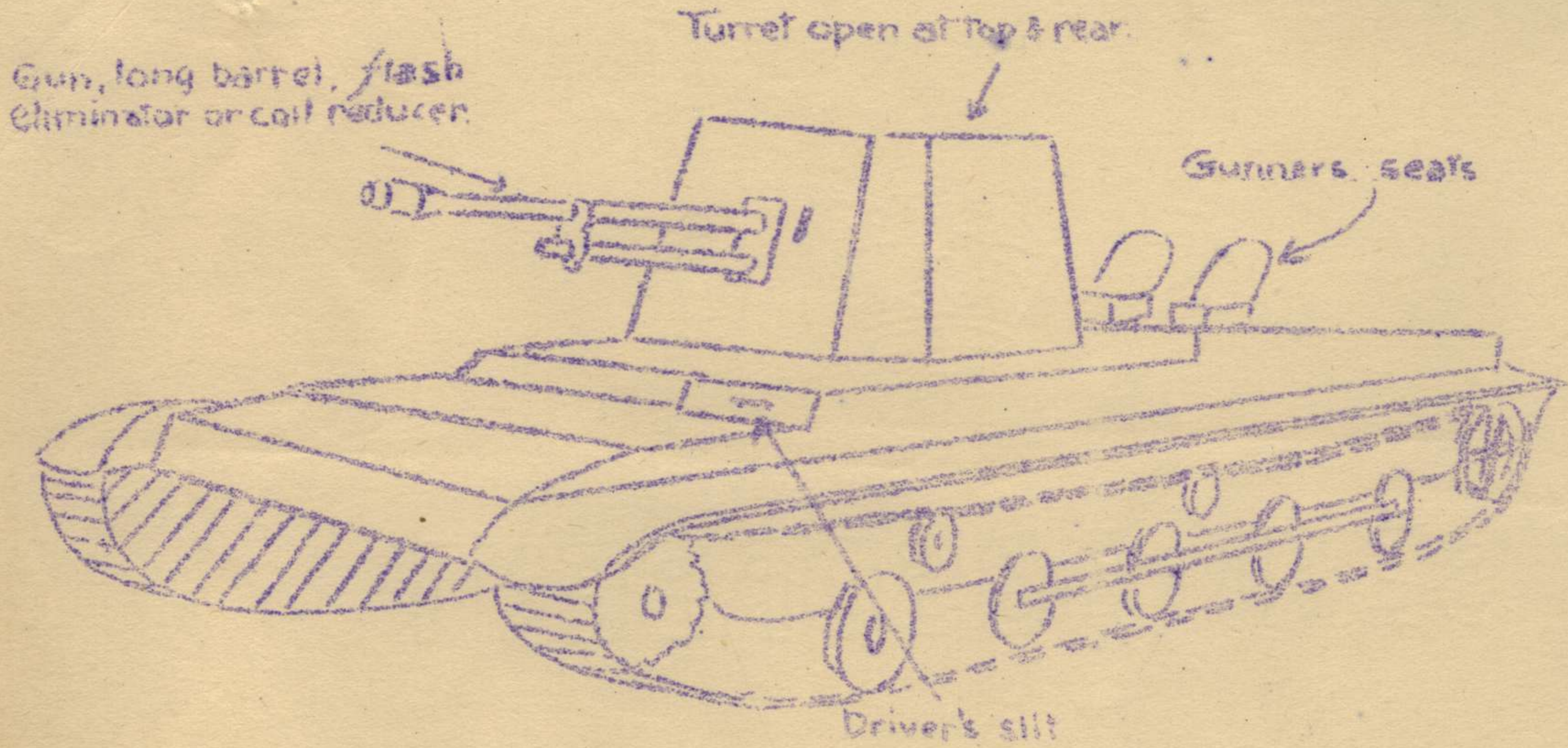
- a. At 1525 hrs 20 May, 2 ME 109 & 2 ME 110 carried out a high level bombing attack on the NORTH shore of the harbour. Seven bombs were dropped, but no damage was reported.
- b. At 0900 today a combined high level and dive bombing attack was made on the WADI AUDA pumping station and "dummy" AA Bty. The attack was carried out by 11 JU 88 and ME 109.

K.E. Bishop Capt
f Col.
 GS 9 AUST DIV.

Time of Signature:

Dist. as for Summary 43.

H.Q. 9 AUST DIV SUMMARY 45
Appendix "B"



TANK BODY POSSIBLY MKII, 9 TONS.

Attached as Appdx "A" is a further account of the GERMAN parachutist methods employed at the Bridge of CORINTH in GREECE. The attention of all is called to the perspicacity of the officer who finally demolished the bridge.

4. ENEMY METHODS

A captured GERMAN Routine Order states that all water, including that from DERNA must only be used after boiling (tea or coffee) and that no water, except that made into tea or coffee, must even be used to rinse the mouth out.

5. ENEMY EQUIPMENT

The GERMANS are using a 47 m.m. gun mounted on a tank body, very similar to the 75 m.m. Sturm Arty previously reported. A sketch of a recently-captured AFV of this type is att at Appdx "B". The body of the tank is the old German Pz Kw Mk I. It has been built up with a three-sided shield of about 15 m.m. steel and mounts what appears to be a very heavy 47 m.m. gun. Three types of amn are carried -- A P, H E and solid shot. A small W/T receiving set is fitted.

6. OWN AERIAL ACTIVITY (from Air Activity Summary No 9 to 1800 hrs 22 May).

Hy bombers, med bombers and fighters have continued their attacks by day and night against enemy AFVs, M T and aerodromes in BARCE, DERNA and CAPUZZO areas.

Many fires were started amongst aircraft on the ground, when enemy occupied aerodromes in GREECE were attacked on night 20/21 May.

The enemy continues to try landing air-borne troops in CRETE, but is reported to be suffering heavy losses. Our air force is continuing to harass rebel forces in IRAQ.

J. S. Hawley
Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Distribution : As per Summary No 45

Events at the CORINTH CANAL 26 Apr 41

I reached the Canal at about noon on the 25 April. I had been on traffic control duty for two days and nights, spending the whole of my time on the road, but this last trip from NAFLION to the CANAL had been sufficient to convince me that movement in daylight on the road was no longer reasonable, owing to the intensity of the bombing and ground strafing.

All was quiet at the CANAL BRIDGE and I started to look around for members of the Staff of Brigadier LEE, to whom to report, and found, Major GARY of the 3 RTR who gave me the following information:-

" In addition to the AA gunners defending the Bridge there are in the area HQ and one Sqn 4 Hussars whose role is to defend the bridge, and a brigade or part of a brigade of Australians in the CORINTH area whose role is an anti-parachute one. A New Zealand brigade is to cross the CANAL tonight and possibly another tomorrow night; part of the New Zealand Brigade will relieve the Australians, who are to proceed South to the beach. If the Bridge is blown up, the personnel of the NZ Bdes are to get across the CANAL on pontoons and will be picked up by vehicles parked in concealment areas South of the bridge and taken to the beaches".

I next found Lieut J.T. TYSON R.E. who had helped the N.E. Section prepare the Bridge for demolition. The only orders he had received were that the Bridge would not fall into enemy hands; he expected that the NZ Engineers would do the actual demolition.

With him I carried out a recce of the CANAL, saw that the ferries had been demolished and that the pontoons were being prepared on the Northern side. During this time the GERMANS carried out considerable aerial recce but did not bomb or machine gun to any extent. Later, I posted four CMP on the bridge to control the traffic during the night and decided to have some sleep myself on this night.

At 2030 hours that evening a very intense attack was carried out from the air. This I now know was a rehearsal for the next day. About 20 machines of a type larger than dive-bombers came in from the North about 300 feet, bombing and machine gunning and soon both heavy and light AA guns stopped firing. The attack lasted about quarter of an hour. Sooner after the NZ Bde started to come across the bridge and I went to bed.

I awoke at ten to seven and woke TYSON whose hole in the ground I had shared. We thought we heard planes and started to dress when at 0658 hours, the AA guns started firing and the GERMAN planes appeared. This attack was far more intense than any which had preceded it, being carried out by dive-bombers and ME 110 fighters; I estimated the number of the machines as 100. As before the AA fire was silenced in a few minutes. The strafing went on for about half an hour, then the troop carriers started to arrive. They flew in groups of three, almost wing tip to wing tip, at a height of about three hundred feet. The speed at which they were able to fly was far slower than I had thought possible; Each of the outer two machines of each group dropped personnel, while the inner one dropped stores. Parachutists were dropped on each side of the CANAL and in CORINTH and always where there were none of our troops. One machine landed on very rough ground beside the bridge and the troops walked out through the door; the size of this piece of ground was only about 400 yards by 200 yards.

In the areas in which the parachutists had landed all bombing and machine gunning from the air stopped, though this was not at once realised owing to the fact that the diving and roaring of planes over head did not diminish. In the areas occupied by our own troops

where parachutists had not been dropped the strafing continued.

All the parachutists were dropped by parachutes coloured white, but those by which stores were dropped were coloured grey, black and red. The parachutists appeared to land wholly unarmed and as they were liable to land rather heavily and some distance from the stores there seems to be a period of about ten minutes during which they are particularly vulnerable. Altogether between 600 and 800 appeared to be dropped in the area round the CANAL, all within the first half an hour. A number of the parachutists carried flags approximately 5 feet square, coloured red, with a white circle in the centre and a black Swastika most central of all. These they spread on the bonnet of any vehicle they used. Each man had a silk handkerchief, blue and white spots which was waved at their aircraft and which seemed to give immunity from attack. They wore crash-helmets, coats and smocks, grey in colour.

After landing they were prone to walk around, presumably collecting their stores, but went to ground and stayed there if fired on.

TYSON began to talk of blowing up the bridge. I did not see that he had a chance of reaching the fuze, which was not more than 15 ft from the plane which had landed. Further I was expecting to see the NZ Bde start its counter attack and shortly after we saw troops advancing in extended order from the direction of SCRINTH, but through our glasses we soon saw they were GERMANS. Again TYSON wanted to try to reach the bridge and again I was sure the attempt was beyond any hope of success. He then suggested that as the demolition had been prepared with gelignite a shot would probably be enough to set it off and this we decided to try. I climbed up on a bank and took a shot at the packet of explosive I could see strapped on to the side of the structure, using a rifle. The shot was a bad one and before I could reload I was fired on, the fire coming from a Tommy gun I believe, as it was even more inaccurate than my own shot. I jumped off the bank and readjusted the sights, climbed up again at a spot ten yards away and scored a bull and the bridge blew up. At least a dozen GERMANS blew up with it. Almost immediately a white flare light was fired over us and aircraft dived and appeared to be searching us out. We started to work our way SE towards the sea collecting on our way 26 men of the 102 Lt AA and 16 Hy AA Btys. TYSON fired on parachutists with a Bren we found and they immediately went to ground and we saw no more movement from that particular group of them. We found the haversack ration of one of them which, augmented by a little Greek bread and cheese we were given, was sufficient to provide a snack for us and our 26 men.

The total weight was probably between 5 and 7 pounds, and the haversack ration was made up of :-

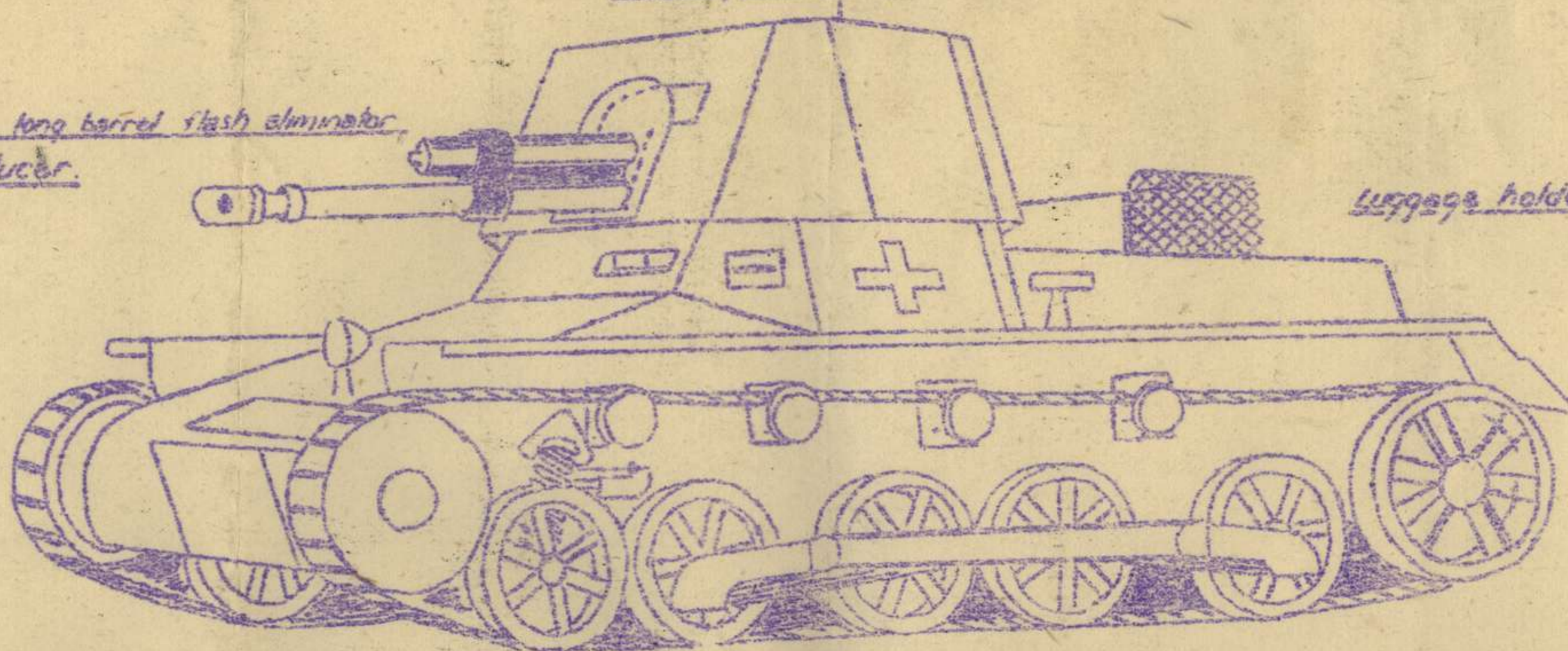
- A big sausage wrapped in cellophane.
- Compressed bacon similarly packed.
- Eight small sausages.
- Eight packets of chocolate.
- A small loaf of bread.
- A number of tablets marked "Energen" which tasted like icing sugar.
- A small tin of lemonade powder or sherbet.
- Two packets of dried fruits.

- HQ 9 AUST DIV - I SUMMARY 46 -

Appendix B

Turret opened at top & rear

47 mm Gun. long barrel flash eliminator
or coil reducer.



Luggage holder on radiator.

- TANK BODY POSSIBLY MK I 5 1/2 TONS -

HQ 9 Aust Div.
May 24th 1941
Drawn by I.I.H.

25 May 41

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 47.Compiled from information received up to 1330 hrs 25 May 41.

Ref. TOBRUK 1/50,000 with overprint.

✓ 1. GENERAL.

(a) Heavy dust storms over the area of the garrison again precluded ground or aerial activity.

(b) The GREEKS are using captured enemy material to drive the enemy out of the town at HERAKLION where the situation is reported to be well in hand. Our heavy bombers dropped medical stores and food for our forces at HERAKLION on the night 22/23 May.

(c) There have been no further reports from the frontier areas.

✓ 2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY.

(a) A patrol from 2/48 Bn on night 24/25 May covered the whole of the Bn front up to a distance of 500 yards. No sign of enemy was seen or heard.

(b) A patrol of INCO and 6 ORs observed a small party of enemy digging in derelict plane area. Spasmodic movement of MT was heard during night between Pt 209 and "WATERTANK". There were occasional bursts of MG fire from area in vicinity of "WATERTANK".

(c) A patrol of 1 offr and 7 ORs from 2/13 Bn approached an enemy working party of 20 to 30 men. The patrol fired on a bunched group, but no estimate of the number of casualties inflicted could be made. Our patrol returned without loss.

(d) A patrol of 1 INCO and 2 ORs from 2/12 Bn moved out to the area in vicinity of S10 and recovered two 45 mm mortars without contacting the enemy.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT.

GERMAN medium shells probably 150 mm have been found at approx 40354316. Any further areas shelled by this equipment or any other information about it should be reported to this HQ as soon as possible.

5. AIR ACTIVITY.

(a) from our Air Activity Summary No. 10

(1) Our heavy bombers have carried out a large scale raid on BENCASI.

(2) An enemy tanker has been severely damaged off PANTELLEIRA by our medium bombers.

(3) HURRICANES attacked and destroyed a number of enemy MT between TOBRUK and C. PUZZO.

(4) Our aircraft have been operating on an increased scale against enemy aircraft and transport etc. in IRAQ. One petrol post containing 1 million gallons was completely destroyed. This should be a serious loss to both IRAQ and GERMANY.

(5) Details of fighting in CRETE are still incomplete. The GERMANS dropped field guns and ammunition by parachute near HERAKLION. These have been captured and are being

used by us.

- (b) Attached as Appex "A" to this Summary is "Notes on the attack of troop carrying aircraft.
- (c) At 0945 hrs today 2 ME109 made a harbour recce.
- (d) At 1000 hrs one JU88 or H EINHEL dropped bombs in the vicinity of the WADI AUDA. No damage was reported.
- (e) At 1130 hrs one JU88 dropped 4 bombs on North shore. No damage was reported.
- (f) At 1315 hrs approx 10 JU87 with fighter escort dive bombed 3 small ships out at sea. There were many near misses but no damage reported.

Time of Signature 1530 hrs

K. E. Bishop Capt
for Col.
GS 9 Aust Div.

Distribution.

As for Summary No. 46

APPX "A" to AUSTRALIAN DIVISION SUMMARY NO. 47.

NOTES ON THE ATTACK ON TROOP-CARRYING AIRCRAFT.

The present imminent danger of invasion by air borne troops necessitates that the troops who have to meet this danger should have detailed information in regard to the lead allowances that should be employed when attacking troop-carrying aircraft in the air and during the landing period.

It seems generally agreed that the first objectives will be the seizure of aerodromes or of localities which can be safely used as landing grounds. To do this, parachutists will be freely employed to make good the landing grounds, so that subsequent reinforcements with their equipment can be disembarked en masse instead of being scattered over a somewhat wide area.

The types of aircraft most likely to be utilized, and details of their carrying capacity and ^{and} speeds in still air are tabulated below:-

Type	Normal Speeds	Length	Carrying Capacity.
Junkers, 52	170-190 mph	62 ft	14 - 17 troops
" 86 & 88	200-225 "	57 "	12 "
" 89 & 90	200-230 "	86 "	40 "
Heinkel, 111	200-220 "	57 "	10 "
Docke-Wulf, Condor	200-230 "	78 "	30 "

It is stated that the Junkers 52's have been used to tow gliders each of which has accommodation for 35 men. When towing two gliders the speeds may be 120 miles an hour or less. To facilitate steering, the gliders take up positions one somewhat above, the other somewhat below, the towing plane.

The special characteristic of these planes - some of which are converted passenger planes - is that the vulnerable area extends for a long distance down the fuselage. In the case of the Junkers 90 and the Condor, their vulnerable area has a length of nearly 20 yards. It is, therefore, all important not to use such excessive deflections that the bullets will miss the target by being too far ahead. For this reason, when estimating speeds it is as well to use an estimate on the low side.

The following table gives the variations in deflections for the .300 American rifle which should record hits on the vulnerable areas of troop-carrying aircraft assuming the vulnerable area to have a length of 15 yds - as is the case with the Junkers 52 - for a ground speed of 200 miles an hour.

Range	All deflections between	Remarks.
100 yds	Zero and 6° 15'	The smaller deflections should give hits 15 yds behind the propeller.
200 "	2° 40' 6° 55'	
300 "	4° 30' 7° 15'	
400 "	5° 35' 7° 35'	
500 "	6° 30' 8° 5'	

The above figures refer solely to purely crossing targets. For angles of attack of 50°, 30°, and 15°, the deflections would be $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amounts recorded.

It will be obvious that if the lead allowance of 12 degrees as laid down in recent instructions is employed against targets of this nature, there can be no expectation of getting a single hit. As this type of target is almost above all others the greatest menace to our country, and, if properly dealt with, the most sensitive to rifle and machine-gun fire, it is of paramount importance that all fighting troops should have instruction on the soundest lines.

The battle sight of the .300 rifle which gives the correct elevation for a range of 450 yards should always be used. At 200 yards, the bullet will strike some 18 inches above the point of aim.

LANDING SPEEDS.

Troop-carrying aircraft about to land will reduce speed and glide at about 90 miles an hour preparatory to touching down at air speeds of 50 or 60 miles an hour. As landings will take place up wind, the touching down ground speeds are likely to be some 10 or 20 miles less than these air speeds.

Gliders will probably land at air speeds of about 30 miles an hour.

The following table gives the distances traversed by aircraft flying at a speed of 50 miles an hour during the time of flight of the .300 bullet at various ranges. (The figures for the .303 are almost identical.)

<u>Range yards</u>	<u>Distance flown during time of flight of the bullet.</u>
100	3 yards
200	6 "
300	9 "
400	13 "
500	17 "

Little or no deflection is required for these targets. Machine guns should be given a slow sweep to and from just in front of the propeller to a point about half-way down the fuselage. The same procedure applies to gliders.

The attack of troop-carrying aircraft must be carried out at all angles of sight, even down to zero. It is to be presumed that a recent instruction limiting the attack of aircraft to a minimum of 25 degrees of angle of sight has no reference to troop-carrying aircraft. Actually there is no specific merit in an angle of 25 degrees. It is immaterial whether the rifle is fired at an angle of 15 degrees or 50 degrees; in both cases the bullet has to come down somewhere, and in both cases it will have sufficient velocity to cause a mortal wound.



<u>Range yards</u>	<u>Distance flown during time of flight of the bullet.</u>
100	3 yards
200	6 "
300	9 "
400	13 "
500	17 "

The above figures refer to a velocity of 50 m.p.h. and 15° of the angle of attack.

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 48

(Compiled from information received up to 1300 hrs 27 May 41)

1. GENERAL

The situation remains generally quiet. In many cases, our patrols have moved out considerable distances, but have NOT made contact with the enemy.

Our arty have carried out many harassing and C B tasks, and direct hits on a n enemy A Tk gun and mortars have been reported. There has been no information received from the SOLLUM area or from CRETE.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

a. Night 26/27 May was generally quiet. There was slight M T movement on the front of 26 Inf Bde on the escarpment and on the front of 24 Inf Bde, but it is noticed that there has been considerable reduction in M T movement during the past 48 hours.

b. 8 recently-dug pits have been located South of 2/48 Bn front. These were "T" shaped of the following dimensions:-
Head of "T" - 10 to 12 ft by 3 ft; leg of "T" 4 ft by 3 ft; Depth 2 ft; Head of "T" faced the perimeter. The pits were unoccupied.

c. A carrier patrol of 2/32 Bn moved out 2500 yds yesterday afternoon, but did NOT see or contact any enemy.

d. 2/9 Bn patrols heard sounds of digging in general area of strong post about 40134293. An enemy M G emplacement was seen by flare light at approx 40144295. A light Breda fired on our patrols from about 40054295, but was silenced by Bren fire. It now appears that the tank ditch has been made continuous from Pt 40004289 to about Pt 40034297.

e. A small patrol of 1 NCO and 3 ORs from 18 CAV met an enemy patrol of 35/40 men at 397437. Fire was exchanged, the enemy using 3 M Gs and a mortar. There were no casualties to our tps.

f. 2/12 and 2/13 Bn patrols did NOT contact or see any enemy.

4. ENEMY EQUIPMENT - Flame Throwers.

1. Few details are known regarding types of flame throwers in use by GERMANY and ITALY. During the last War, the GERMANS developed and used

a. A portable type carried on the soldier's back, capable of projecting a jet of flame about 20 yds for a period of about one minute.

b. A sem-stationary type, consisting of several cylindrical tanks of oil which could project a jet of flame 40 to 50 yds.

The ITALIANS favour both the knapsack and trailer type, the latter drawn by a tank or truck.

/2, GERMANY has

2. (cont of Para 4).

GERMANY has continued to experiment with these weapons, and had developed, besides the above, a larger type mounted on tanks or armoured vehicles; particularly as an anti-tank weapon. The range is believed to be 120 metres. The latest information is of a 2-ton flame thrower wagon, carrying a heavy M G and a flame thrower coupled to the engine of the vehicle with a range of about 200 yds.

3. Knapsack flame throwers are reported to have sufficient heat to melt armour plate $\frac{5}{8}$ " thick, and can render concrete emplacements untenable, and presumably the power in larger models increases in proportion to their size. They are very vulnerable owing to the inflammable oil which they carry.

4. It is thought that the facts and figures stated above are probably exaggerated, but owing to the scarcity of accurate infmn, as to the latest types of weapon, the above must be accepted until it can be definitely refuted.

5. There is no method of dealing with flame throwers, except that of destroying the operator or the apparatus, but all ranks will be instructed to be constantly on the watch for these weapons and to make every effort to destroy both weapon and operator before the apparatus can be brought into play ".

5. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

a. At 1030 hrs 26 May, one JU 88 dropped 5 bombs from a height of 19,000 ft. No damage was reported.

b. At 1512 hrs, 9 BR 20 at 16,000 ft, dropped 15 bombs, 2 of which fell into the harbour and 13 West of the harbour. One hit was scored on the EA by our AA. No damage was reported.

c. At 1921 hrs, 5 JU 87, one JU 88 and 2 ME 109, from a height of 12,000 ft dive -bombed and M G'd a 3.7" gun site on NORTH POINT. The damage inflicted was slight, and one OR wounded was the only casualty. 2 EA were shot down, and a further two were hit. Of these two hit, one JU 87 turned and jettisoned bombs into the sea. It was last seen losing height, but was NOT seen to crash.

d. At 1951 hrs, 8 JU 88's in two waves, attacked TOBRUCH. The aircraft dived from 21,000 to 4,000 ft and dropped many bombs. The first wave sent in a decoy at 12,000 ft, and as soon as fire was opened, 3 others carried out a high-level attack. The second wave sent in a decoy at 20,000 ft, and as soon as fire was opened, he flashed a white light and 3 others dived.

K E Bishop Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Time of Signature : 1345 hrs

DISTRIBUTION : As per Summary No 47

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 49

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 28 May 41)

Ref Map : TOBRUCH 1/50,000 with overprint.

1. GENERAL.

- a. Arty fire and machine-gunning continue in the Salient, but in other sectors the situation is generally quiet.
- b. No further information has been received from CRETE.
- c. At 0900 hrs 27 May, the situation in the BARDIA-SOLLUM area was as follows :- At mid-day on May 26, the enemy advanced with three mixed columns, two of which moved East, South of the escarpment. They were engaged by our troops, who were forced to withdraw to the 550 Grid line at 2000 hours. Later in the afternoon, another enemy coln attacked our troops who were still holding out in the HALFAYA area. These troops withdrew slightly from 526368, but made two counter attacks, which, however, failed to regain the ground. The following morning at 0645 hrs, they were again heavily attacked and were forced to withdraw from the HALFAYA Area.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

- a. German - The only Units of 15 ARMD DIV which have so far been identified are :-

33 Arty Regt
33 Anti-Tank Bn

From captured documents, it now appears that the 2 Coy 33 Engr Bn now joins the 6 (Engr) Coy of the 2 MG Bn. The 115 and 104 Lorried Inf Regts were previously reported as being in this Division, but further reports indicate that the 13 and 14 Lorried Inf Regts have taken their place and that the former have been or are being transferred to the 5 Light Motorised Div. The effect of this transfer would be to bring the 5 Light Mot Div up to the establishments of an Armd Div on a one Tank Regt basis. The possible new organisation of the 15 Armd Div is shown under para iv of this Summary.

Italian. - The 11 BERSAGLIERE Bn has been identified in the area about Point 428419. This would put the 10 BERSAGLIERE Bn in the WADI BELGASSEM - WADI GERUILA Area.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY

The 2/28 Bn reported that during the afternoon 27 May, MMG firing on Posts R 32 and R 53 seemed to be coming from 2200 yds on a bearing 235 degs from R 32. Our Mortars and "Bush" Arty replied and the hostile machine-gunning promptly ceased. At 1915 hrs, 8 enemy MT were observed de-bussing troops in the area 3953430'. They were engaged by our arty. Heavy enemy defensive fire was brought down by the enemy on the MEDAUUAR Sector. This was probably brought about by a patrol from 18 CAV who went out and drove a number of Italians from their fwd positions.

At 1630/1720 hrs this morning, 25 MT incl AFVs were seen descending the escarpment at 423409. At approx the same time, 104 RHA reported that 100 tps and 12 MT were in the vicinity of the BARDIA Rd 5/600 yds from the perimeter and were being engaged. A further report indicates they were dispersed. (OVER).

2/1 Pioneer Bn report the following flash-spotting from
Pt. 40294239 :-

Bearing	296 degs	4 Guns
"	318 degs	4 Guns
"	307 degs	1 Gun
"	300 degs	1 Gun

At 2320 hrs, 2/13 Bn reported a quick-firing gun shelling FORT
PILASTRINO on a bearing of 274 degs from 40184289.

4. ENEMY ORGANISATION.

There is a possibility that the new organisation of the 15 GERMAN
ARMED DIV is as follows :-

8 ARMD BDE
31 Tank Regt (1 and 2 Bns)

HQ Lorried Inf Bde
704 Hy Inf Gun Coy (possibly assault guns)
13 Lorried Inf Regt
14 Lorried Inf Regt

55 M/C Bn
33 Arty Regt (1, 2 and 3 Btys)
8 Mech Recce Unit
33 A Tk Bn
55 AA Regt (2nd Bty)
89 Engr Bn
33 Sig Bn
85 Supply and Tpt Units

It should be observed that this organisation shows only one Tank
Regt, although there is an Armd Bde HQ. This same organisation was
followed in the Balkans.

5. ENEMY METHODS (ITALIAN)

a. VERY Signals : The patrol VERY Light Code used by the 7th
BERSAGLIERE Regt is as follows :-

Enemy attacking	- Red Light
Tanks Attacking	- Green "
Tanks and inf attack	
ing	- Green and Red Light
Lengthen your fire	- White Light repeated

b. Rock Cairns: An offr POW from 7 BERSAGLIERE Regt reports
that in this Unit, patrols going out are instructed to build
rock cairns on reaching their objective so that offr can
observe (through binoculars) and ascertain whether or not
the patrol did its job.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY.

There has been little air activity over the Fortress during the
past 24 hrs.

1400 hrs 27 May, one J U 88 at 14,000 ft appeared to be making a
high-level bombing attack on TOBRUCH. AA shells burst very close
to the plane which speedily made off, dropping his bombs en route
They fell in the area 41054365, but no damage has been reported.

1650 hrs 27 May, two M E 109s made a recce flight over the TOBRUK
area.

1920 hrs 28 May, two M E 110s made a shallow dive-bombing attack
on the A.A.D. They glided out of the sun with engines switched
off and dropped about eight (8) bombs. No damage was done.

1035 hrs 28 May, two M E 109s approached the harbour, but were
driven off by heavy AA fire.

(cont on next page)

APPENDIX "A" to 9 Aust Div Intelligence

Summary No. 49.

1. There will always be a great difficulty in discovering the enemy's intention to use gas because the essence of its successful use is surprise, and therefore he will take all possible steps to conceal his intentions. It is therefore, important, that the observations given below should be made and results, if any, reported at once. In particular, the markings on GERMAN shells are most important, as is the existence of any equipment, the use of which is not obvious.

2. It is unlikely that intelligence of enemy's intentions to use gas will be obtained from visual observation of enemy equipment, or from identification of his chemical warfare troops. This is because the most likely weapons in this theatre are:-

- (a) Air-craft bombs.
- (b) Arty gas shells.
- (c) Mortar gas shells.
- (d) Low spray from aeroplanes.

Of these, the first three will not need specialist troops, and the shells themselves will only be distinguishable by the markings. We know little of the GERMAN markings as yet, and for this reason GERMAN shell markings should always be reported. As regards low spray from aeroplanes the specialist troops would be among the ground staff of the enemy aerodromes and so not to be seen by our forward troops.

3. Since the enemy must expect retaliation, it is almost certain that before he would use gas, he would tighten his own defensive measures. Indications that he is doing this are quite likely to be seen by forward troops. Examples of these observations are the following, which should always be carefully looked for:-

- (a) Has the enemy been seen wearing respirators?
- (b) In the case of GERMAN troops, is the container of the respirator screwed into the face-piece or is it separate in the carrier with the screw-cap in place? We believe that normally the GERMAN tropical container and respirator are kept apart, and only screwed together shortly before the respirator is to be used.
- (c) Have ITALIAN troops been found issued with GERMAN respirators?
- (d) Have ITALIAN troops been issued with new material for personal decontamination, such as the GERMAN LOSANTIN tablets; or with any defence against spray, such as the GERMAN protective sheet? As far as is known, the ITALIANS have not been issued with either of these, although the GERMANS have them.

4. The intention to use other weapons than those described above would probably be disclosed by the presence forward of specialist troops. Those in the ITALIAN army, are known, but there is uncertainty about the GERMAN chemical troops. GERMAN chemical troops are thought to be identical with the Nebelabteilungen, who wear lilac or pale mauve as a distinguishing colour on their shoulder straps and gorget patches

7. SECURITY

- a. During recent operations throughout the MIDDLE EAST, it is possible that documents of value to the enemy have been captured in baggage dumped and not taken into action.
- b. Documents for dumping with baggage should be ready for destruction at the shortest notice. In no case, should they be dumped unless arrangements have been made for their destruction.
- c. Much valuable information has been obtained by G.S.I. from captured private documents such as letters, diaries etc. Private correspondence should therefore be destroyed and never dumped with personal baggage.
- d. Official documents should NOT, under any circumstances be included in personal baggage.

Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Time of Signature : 1305 hrs

DISTRIBUTION: As per Summary No 48.

29 May 41.

Copy No 151

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 50

(From information received up to 1200 hrs 29 May 41)

Ref Map : TOBRUCH 1/50,000 with overprint

1. GENERAL.

a. In TOBRUCH, our fighting patrols continue to harass the enemy. Long range carrier patrols have penetrated into the enemy territory in the SOUTH EAST, and have brought back useful information. Considerable enemy arty activity has been apparent, particularly during the past 24 hours. Lately, enemy aerial activity has been slight with only small formations of planes being used.

The Tac R at 1030 hrs reveals the presence of 300 M T ACROMA area, 150 MT bend el ADEM rd area, 100 MT BU AMUD, 50 MT moving along TRIGH CAPUZZO from WEST to EAST and 200/300 MT moving along main BARDIA Rd from WEST to EAST.

b. In CRETE, air activity has been intensified in all areas and severe fighting continues. Long range fighters from EGYPT are attacking MALEME with a new type of incendiary bomb, which is having a deadly effect. Many fires were started amongst EA on the ground.

The GERMAN Air Officer Commanding in CRETE has been killed.

c. No further news has been received from the frontier area.

d. Our W ELLINGTON bombers attacked BENGHASI on the night 25/26 May, damaging the telephone exchange and starting small fires. SCARPANTO was also subjected to attack. Operations in EAST AFRICA and IRAQ are continuing satisfactorily.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

It is learned from a captured document that the 51 Medical Sec forms part of the TRENTO Div.

3. ENEMY PERSONALITIES.

Commandant 7 BERSAGLIERE Regt - Col ENRICO DURANTI.

4. GROUND ACTIVITY.

On the night 26/27, the centre coy 13 Bn moved fwd. Their left flank was able to advance 300/500 yds, their centre 150 yds and their right flank 50 yds. Consolidation commenced, but at day-break it was not completed, and it was decided to withdraw to the posn previously occupied.

The following night, consolidation was completed and the posn occupied. At about 0400 hrs, fwd listening posts warned the coy of the approach of the enemy in strength, approx 50. Heavy fire was brought to bear by the coy, and the enemy withdrew in much disorder, leaving many casualties on the ground. The next morning, stretcher bearers were observed working under cover of the Red Cross flag and several ambulances were seen working in the rear. Our casualties were nil.

A PW, since identified as from the 2 M G Bn, was captured in the Salient by a patrol from 18 Bde. Another patrol observed 20 men in the vicinity of the WATER TOWER and picked up an enemy map case.

(continued over) / A patrol..

A patrol from 2/12 Bn made contact with the enemy at 39744367. A Breda M G post was destroyed and at least 12 casualties inflicted upon the enemy. We sustained one casualty (wounded). 2/48 Bn sent a long-range carrier patrol out. They saw several enemy inf at 41804140 and were fired upon by arty and A Tk guns from approx 41804150.

Enemy arty has been very active on all fronts. Yesterday, most of it was directed against the MEDAUUAR Sector and the BARDIA Road where it passes through the perimeter in the DAUD Sector. This morning, the fire has been on various Posts in the PILASTRINO sector and just SOUTH of the main rd in the DAUD Sector.

An OP reports that our arty hit and destroyed an enemy amn dump at 42414175.

12 stationary MT have been reported at 42734153. It has been suggested that these may be the bty transport of a bty known to be located in that area.

A 4 gun bty has been located at 42414173.

An enemy M G post at 39884304 was successfully engaged by a section of the 1 RNF.

Water

5. ENEMY ORGANISATION

Rations: A PW states that they receive one hot meal daily. Usually this consists of stew made from tinned meat and vegetables. For the other two meals, they invariably get the same rations - one tin of sardines (about 4 oz), one oz of honey, one bar of chocolate (about size of our 3d Nestles), $\frac{1}{2}$ loaf of bread (about the size of our loaf) per man. Five or six cigarettes. Plenty of tea and coffee is available and occasionally they receive an issue of ITALIAN aerated water.

6. AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Two recce flights were made by enemy aircraft yesterday. The first, by 2 M E 109s from 8,500 to 15,000 ft at 1025 hrs, and the second by one J U 88 from 21,000 ft at 1130 hrs.

At 1900 hrs, an enemy A/C plane was reported to be directing hostile arty fire on to some of our fwd units.

At 0855 hrs 29 May, 2 M E 110s approached from the EAST and made a lightning attack in the WADI AUDA. They were fired upon by our light AA units, but dropped six bombs approx one mile off their target, which apparently was the pumping station.

At approx 1000 hrs, 2 unidentified planes dropped bombs WEST of the WADI AUDA. One stick fell in the bay along the beach directly WEST of MARSA el AUDA, causing one casualty and the other stick fell further SOUTH in the rear 9 DIV HQ Area. No damage has been reported from this second stick.

J. Harvey
for Col
GS 9 AUST DIV

Time of Signature : 1240 hsr

DISTRIBUTION: As per Summary No 49

30 May 41.

I Lec
RW
SECRET

Copy No. 18

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 51

(From Information received up to 1200 hrs 30 May 41)

Ref Maps : TOBRUCH - 1/50,000 and 1/500,000 with overprint.

1. GENERAL

- a. Enemy air activity over TOBRUCH has increased considerably. Yesterday, upwards of 100 EA made flights over the Fortress. The ground situation remains unchanged; the Tac R at 1700-1800 hrs revealed a coln of 200 mixed enemy MT at ACROMA, 50 MT at el ADEM, a coln of 300 MT moving WEST on TRIGH CAPUZZO with head 2 miles EAST BU AMUD and 25 MT at BU AMUD.
- b. In the frontier area, our coastal coln shelled enemy MT concentrations at 528368, knocking out one gun. It is reported that in BARDIA there are 250 MT and two batteries of AA guns, whilst there are a further 280 MT and 20 tanks NE of the BARDIA perimeter. 150 MT and 4 AA guns are in the area 504377.
- c. No further information has been received from CRETE, but aerial photographs shew that a number of ME 109's and at least 43 JU 52's have been destroyed on the ground at MALEME.
- d. COLOGNE and other towns in WESTERN GERMANY have been attacked by the RAF with great success. Despite serious opposition in CRETE, our aircraft continue to harass GERMAN forces. At least 5 EA were destroyed yesterday. The aerodrome at MOSUL in IRAQ has again been bombed by our aircraft.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY.

A patrol from 2/23 Bn was engaged by enemy fire, incl BREDAS and Mortars, and forced to withdraw. The enemy appeared to be in strength of about one pl and was located between 42484243 and 42484248.

As the patrol withdrew, they were fired on by a heavy BREDA from 42494251.

At 0130 hrs this morning, a patrol from 2/13 Bn moved fwd 300 x to a line of enemy sangars. Twenty enemy were encountered and were 'shot up' with BRENS and grenades. The patrol returned safely with no casualties.

The enemy has dug in a tank at 39794249 and are constructing what may be a post at 40024244. Sangars, one of which has a telephone line leading to it, have been observed at 40074242. Between 1915 hrs and 1945 hrs, 50/70 MT were seen moving down the escarpment at 404412. A further 20 were seen moving WEST from el ADEM. Two vehs, approx 30 cwt, drove up CARRIER HILL and de-bussed 15 inf each. They were engaged by our arty and disappeared over the hill.

A stationary tank at 42854208 was engaged by our arty. CB shoot was carried out by our 60-pdrs at 0045 hrs 29 May. A hostile battery was neutralised in 10 rounds of fire.

The enemy once again resorted to the use of AA guns for ground shelling. Between 1830 and 1845 hrs, an AA bty firing from inside the salient shelled the PILASTRINO sector, (50 shells).

/ over.

Hostile btys have been active on all fronts during the last 4 days including the bty though previously to be 149 mm. This it is now considered may be the GERMAN Inf Gun which has a max range of 9296 yds and fires a shell weighing 92.6 lbs. Shelling was reported by the 104 RHA on their front on the 26 May. This was the first hostile shelling reported on this front for approx a week. Resumption of activity on this LEFT Sector combined with reports of movement from hostile bty areas may indicate that enemy arty is being more evenly distributed around the perimeter. At 1122 hrs ^{Yesterday} ~~this morning~~ three enemy tks were observed approaching the perimeter along the EL ADEM rd. They were engaged by our arty and withdrew.

In 9 Aust Div Int Summary No. 50, para.4 it was reported that a patrol from the 2/12 Bn made contact with the enemy destroying a BREDA MG post and inflicting a number of casualties. It is now learnt that this patrol was provided from the KDGs

4. ENEMY METHODS

GERMAN flash spotting

At 2300 hrs 28 May 51 Fd Regt Gp reported a Hostile bty ranging by air bursts in their area. This was followed by a concentration of 4 guns approx 300 yds in front of a tp position. This is of interest as presumably to do this the enemy must either have brought up a flash spotting section or improvised one. Flash spotting and sound ranging sections normally form part of the arty observation unit attd to Med Regts.

The enemy method of engaging our btys with air burst ranging is thought to be as follows :-

Instruments from three or more Flash Spotting Observation Posts are laid on the flash on our guns. Ranging is then carried out until air bursts coincide with readings taken with our flashes. It was noticeable that there was considerable interval between ranging rounds during a shoot carried out 28 May.

ITALIAN Arty Methods

A patrol from the 2/48 Bn in the SOUTH EAST sector reported that enemy white and orange VERY lights were frequently put up in square 410416. When the orange light went up, an enemy bty in square 419412 opened fire, two guns firing.

5. AERIAL ACTIVITY.

1350 hrs 29 May: At least 60 planes took part, consisting of about 50 JU 87's with a fighter escort of 6 ME 109's and 6 CR 42's. 10 JU 87's dived on the town and the harbour from WNW and dropped large bombs (probably about 2,000 lb). Meanwhile, the remainder dived on the harbour and town from the SOUTH out of the sun. About 10 planes attacked the heavy AA site on NORTH point and fighters machine-gunning along the North shore. The SINDONIS and two lighters were sunk and No 5 jetty damaged. An ITALIAN oil fuel tank which was practically empty, was set on fire.

Four enemy planes were confirmed shot down by AA fire and at least four others hit. Our AA casualties were four wounded.

1410 hrs 29 May: One JU 88 flew over at a high level and dropped six bombs near the BARDIA Rd.

1745 hrs 29 May: One HENSCHELL 126 and 2 ME 109's made a recce flight at a height of 6,000 feet.

1700 hrs 29 May: The 'MARIA GIOVANNI' was attacked by 2 HE 111's, one of which she shot down. The vessel was slightly damaged by several near misses.

/ at 1840 hrs...

1840 hrs, 29 May : 4 JU 88's made a bombing attack on the harbour and town. Three dropped bombs from 20,000 and the third made a dive-bombing attack. No damage has been reported.

1930 hrs, 29 May: 4 ME 110's were observed flying from EAST to WEST, North of TOBRUCH at 8,000 ft. The formation was broken up by heavy gun fire and no bombs were dropped.

0815 hrs, 30 May: Recce flight was made by HS 126 at 12,000 ft.

1015 hrs, 30 May: Two JU 88's attacked the town and harbour area. One dropped bombs into the harbour from 17,000 ft and the other dive-bombing the town. No damage has been reported.

1105 hrs, 30 May: Recce flight made by one unidentified plane.

K. Shars
for Col
GS 9 AUST DIV.

TIME OF SIGNATURE : 1245 hrs

DISTRIBUTION: As per Summary No 50, dated 29 May

Edie
RW
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Copy No. 18...

31 May 41

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 52.

(Compiled from information received upto 1300 hrs
31 May 41.)

Ref Map 1/50,000 with overprint.

1. GENERAL.

The active enemy air operations have NOT been continued during the past 24 hrs. One or two high level attacks were carried out without serious damage to ourselves.

There was increased enemy AFV movement in the EL ADEM sector and on the escarpment south of the Salient, but after engagement by our arty and A Tk gunners the activity ceased and no attack materialised. Two enemy tanks were destroyed.

The situation at TOBRUK remains unchanged.

2. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

Nothing to report.

3. GROUND ACTIVITY.

(a) Patrol reports from 18 Aust Inf Bde indicate that with the exception of limited amount of observed movement on fronts of 2/10 and 2/12 Bns digging had ceased. Enemy were only observed in groups of twos or threes. One patrol of 2/10 Bn found in enemy area a BREN gun with loaded magazines, two boxes of SPANDEAU amm and 2 spare SPANDEAU barrels.

(b) 2/48 Bn patrolled from post R69 to R65 and observed no movement. A patrol from post R57 moved forward 500 yards and heard MT and Tk movement to the south at 2200 hrs. White over red Verrey lights were followed by enemy arty fire at 0400 hrs.

(c) 2/23 Bn patrolled from rd block for 2,000 yards along BARDIA rd and observed enemy moving in vicinity of 42444226.

(d) During 30 May a patrol of 3 Cruisers and 3 Lt Tks left TOBRUK defences. 18 enemy tks were engaged by our Cruisers and arty. During the action our patrol was withdrawn leaving one enemy tk destroyed by arty fire and one damaged by 2 pdrs.

(e) Arty reports that a hostile bty at 42694264 was active this morning.

(f) At 1215 hrs 31 May a report from 3 Armd Bde indicated that there was considerable movement on the EL ADEM aerodrome.

4. ENEMY LOSSES.

(Extracted from HQ WESTERN DESERT FORCE Intelligence Summary No. 140 of 19 May 41).

(a) A Battle report signed by Col OLBRICH O.C. of 5 Tank Rgt has fallen into our hands. This described the actions at TOBRUK on 11, 12 and 14 April. After giving graphic details of their flight after they broke into the defences and found that they could not break out again, the document ends as follows:-

The Intelligence gave out before the attack that the enemy was exhausted, that his arty was extremely weak and that his morale had become very low. Before the beginning of the third attack, the Regt had not the slightest idea of the well-designed and executed defence of the enemy nor of a single bty position, or the terrific number of A Tk guns. Also it was not known that he had 12 hy tanks. The Regt went into battle with unbendable will determined at all costs to break the enemy and take TOBRUCH. Only the vastly-superior enemy, the frightful loss and the lack of any supporting weapons caused the Regt to fail in its task.

39 tanks went into Battle
17 tanks were shot to pieces by the enemy
2 officers are missing and wounded
21 NCOs and men are missing
10 NCOs and men are wounded

This means a total loss of 50%

sgd OLBRICH.

(b) Several GERMAN PWS agree in stating that casualties have been numerous, principally owing to the accuracy of our arty fire. "

5. AIR ACTIVITY .

a. At 1450 hrs 30 May, 3 JU 88's at a height of 21,000 ft dropped 12 bombs on the SOUTHERN and WESTERN side of the harbour. Two ORs were wounded, but no damage to installations or equipment was reported.

b. At 0950 hrs 31 May, 2 EA at 26,000 feet dropped bombs in the harbour area. Two veh were damaged and two casualties were sustained, but the distillery which appeared to be the target, was not damaged.

c. It is noticeable that during recent air activity, the enemy has flown over at considerable altitudes, usually with his engines switched off, and then dived to release his bombs. In some instances, he has merely released his bombs from a high level, but these attacks have NOT been very effective.

TIME OF SIGNATURE. 1430 hrs.

A. E. Bishop Capt. COL
GS 9 AUST DIV

DISTRIBUTION: As per Int Summary No 51 dated 30 May 41

BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

BERTHING PLAN.

H.T. "NEVASA."

**DELEGATED WARRANT FOR CONVENING GENERAL
COURTS-MARTIAL.**

To Officer Commanding,
H.M.T. 309.

WHEREAS I am empowered by Warrant of His Majesty to direct my Warrant to any Officer under my command, not below the degree of a Field Officer, giving him a general authority to convene General Courts-Martial for the trial, under the Army Act, of any person under the command of such last-mentioned officer who is subject to military law, and also to execute (subject to the provisions of the said Warrant) in respect of the proceedings of such Courts-Martial, the power of confirming the findings or sentences thereof in accordance with the said Act, or of directing him to reserve for my confirmation the proceedings of all or any such Courts-Martial :

By virtue of the said Warrant, I do hereby authorize and empower you *(or the Officer on whom your command may devolve during your absence, not under the rank of Field Officer) from time to time, as occasion may require, to convene General Courts-Martial for the trial, in accordance with the said Act and the Rules made thereunder, of any person under your command who is subject to Military Law and is charged with any offence mentioned in the said Act, and is liable to be tried by a General Court-Martial.

† And I do hereby empower you *(or the Officer on whom your command may devolve during your absence, not under the rank of Field Officer) to receive the proceedings of such Courts-Martial and confirm the findings and sentences thereof, and to exercise, as respects these Courts and the persons tried by them, the powers created by the said Act of Parliament in the confirming Officer in such manner as may be best for the good of His Majesty's Service.

† Provided always that if by the sentence of any General Court-Martial a Commissioned Officer has been sentenced to suffer Death, Penal Servitude, or to be Cashiered, or dismissed from the Service, you shall in such case, as also in the case of any other General Court-Martial in which you shall think fit so to do, withhold confirmation and transmit the proceedings to me.

* May be omitted.

† This clause is to be omitted if the power of confirmation is wholly reserved.

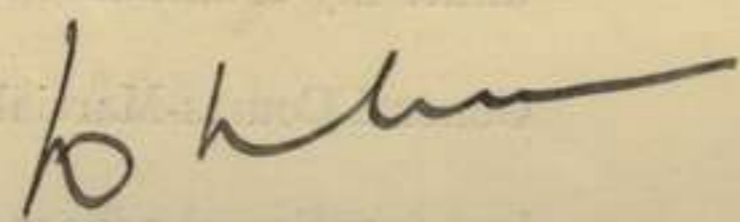
And that there may not in any case be a failure of Justice from the want of a proper person authorised to act as Judge-Advocate, I hereby further empower you, in default of a person appointed by His Majesty, or deputed by the Judge-Advocate-General of His Majesty's Forces or during the illness or occasional absence of the person so appointed or deputed, to nominate and appoint a fit person from time to time for executing the office of Judge Advocate of any Court-Martial for the more orderly proceedings of the same.

And for so doing, this shall be, as well to you as to all others whom it may concern, a sufficient warrant.

Given under my hand and seal at **Military Headquarters,**
Colombo, Ceylon, this **fifteenth** day of **January, 1941.**

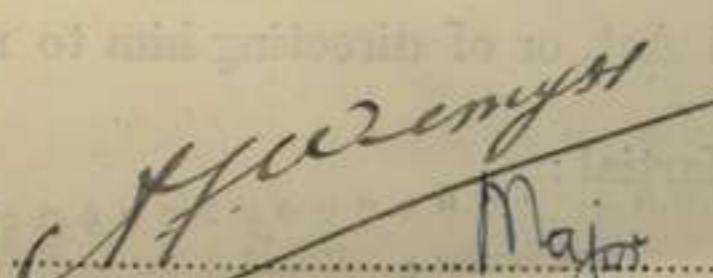
By Command

Signature of
General Officer



BRIGADIER,
COMMANDING TROOPS, CEYLON.

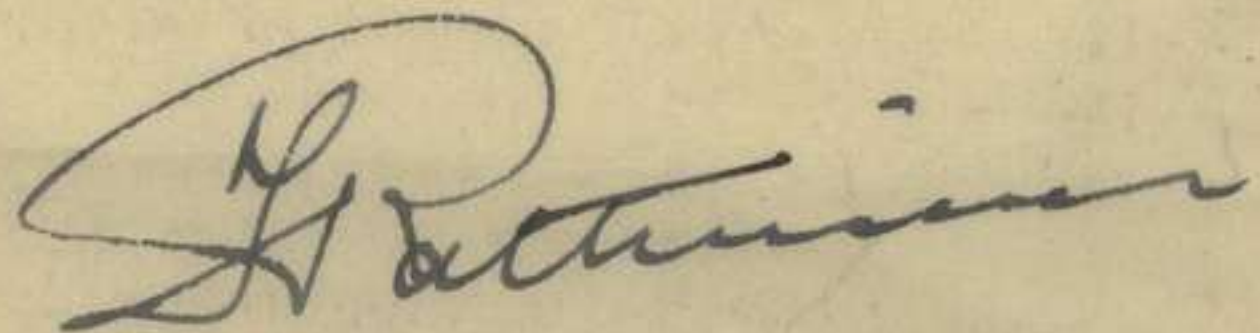
Signature of
Staff Officer


Major
STAFF CAPTAIN,
CEYLON COMMAND.

CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

On relinquishing the Command of the troops on board H.T. "NAVASA"
I certify that:-

- (a) No arms, accoutrements or baggage belonging to troops have been left on board.
- (b) That the quarters occupied by the troops have been left in a clean and satisfactory state.
- (c) All deficiencies and damages caused by the troops to stores on charge of the ship have been investigated and settled.
- (d) All troops have been disembarked.



.....
Master, H.T. "Navasa"

..... *J. Hunter* Lt. Col.
2/43 Bn

Officer Commanding Troops

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

FIRST SALOON

H.T. "NEVASA."

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
			UPPER DECK		
1	A	Matron Thomas G.M.			
	B	Sister Temple Smith W.			
	C	S/Murse Riddle C.D.			
2	A	S/Murse Fuelle D.J.			
	B	" Clarke M.R.			
	C	" Forstman D.J.			
3	A	S/Murse Fayes M.			
	B	" Lambeth F.M.			
	C	" Jennie R.			
4	A	Miss Campbell F.H.			
	B	" Pakes B.M.			
	C	" Matheson S.V.			
5	A	S/Murse Brington J.F.			
	B	" Roberts J.F.			
	C	" Kuble G.			
6	A	S/Murse Kerrigan C.H.			
	B	" Kittrick C.M.			
	C	Miss 4 Lohr B.J.			
	D	" Gateman M.M.B.			
7	A	M ^r Gunner D.H.			Sea Cross ^{Did not} V.M.C. of embark Salv. Army.
	B	M ^r Clark R.P.			
	C	M ^r Oakley C.			
	D				

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

H.T. "NEVASA."

FIRST SALOON

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
√ 8	A	Lieut. R. J. Lyahok			"
	B	" J. G. Hoskins			
	C	" E. W. Hayward			
√ 9	A	Lieut. R. J. Hamer			
	B	" J. W. Hinocks			
	C	" R. J. Hemmings			
10	A				Officer Commanding Troops (Day Cabin)
					Officer Commanding Troops (Night Cabin)
√ 11	A	Lt. Col. W. W. Orellan			
	B				
√ 12	A	Capt. J. H. Morris			
	B	Lieut. J. A. Sunter			
√ 13	A	Col. K. L. Spiers			Senior Medical Officer
	B				
√ 14	A	Lieut. D. E. Taylor			
	B	" W. E. Catchlove			
	C	" S. Cooper (S/M)			
	D				
√ 15	A	Capt. A. J. Hare			
	B	" J. A. Shetton			
	C	" M. R. Jeanes			

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

FIRST SALOON

H.T. "NEVASA."

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
✓ 16	A B	Maj. J. M. Comoy. " L. Smith			
✓ 17	A B	Maj. J. A. Lightwood Capt. L. M. Carter.			C. of E. Chaplain
✓ 18	A B	Capt. J. J. Williamson Capt. W. R. W. Zucker			
✓ 19	A B	Maj. Johnston L. W. " Schwartz J.			
✓ 20	A B	Maj. Tyer J. J. " Ley J. V.			
					One Night Nursing Sister (Homeward)
✓ 21	A B	Maj. Renou C. M. " Matheson J. D.			
✓ 22	A B C	Maj. Chambers Capt. Steel J. J. Capt. Ackland J. J.			
✓ 23	A B C D	Capt. Barnett J. C. " Sinclair J. M. " Lorton J. J.			
✓ 24	A B	Lt. Col. Cooper G. L. " W. Littlejohn			Nursing Sisters

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

H.T. "NEVASA."

FIRST SALOON

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
25	A	Maj G. L. Ruad			
	B	A. B. P. Amies			
26	A	Col. W. J. Hales			R. C. Chaplain
27	A	Capt. J. P. Horan			
	B	J. B. Devine			
	C	Padre O. Cosgriff			
28	A	Padre J. B. Salter			
	B	M. Raaford			
	C	Capt. Z. J. Kewarzik			
29	A	Lieut J. D. Hildop			Officers Ward Homeward (2 Berths)
	B	Capt. J. D. Duncan			
	C	Lieut J. A. Fitts			
30	A	Lieut. G. B. Elphinstone			Officers Ward Homeward (2 Berths)
	B	" H. Reid			
	C	" P. L. Green			
	D	" R. H. Brown			
31	A	Lieut J. A. Pollok			Officers Ward Homeward (2 Berths)
	B	D. B. Sukmann			
	C	R. G. Longbottom			
	D	J. D. Gordon			
32	A	Lieut. O. G. Furing			Officers Ward Homeward (2 Berths)
	B	R. W. Sangster			
	C	R. P. Zapp			

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.

C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

FIRST SALOON

H.T. "NEVASA."

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
33	A	Lieut. J. J. Hilton H. J. Burton J. C. Fodgett			
	B				
	C				
34	A	Lieut. R. J. Begener P. W. Christie C. J. Stewart			
	B				
	C				
MAIN DECK					
39	A	Lieut (Act) J. J. Pratt J. J. Fleming Ch. Richmond			
	B				
	C				
39 40	A	Lieut (Act) K. B. Barrett M. P. Worthley J. J. Gough			
	B				
	C				
41	A	Capt. J. D. Rice Lieut. J. W. Braithwaite			
	B				
	C				
42	A	No I. H. W. Buswell No II. C. B. Grant Sjt. H. H. Moore			
	B				
	C				
43	A	No II. R. G. Scott No II. B. J. Woods No II. F. C. George			
	B				
	C				

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

H.T. "NEVASA."

FIRST SALOON

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
44	A	W.O. H. Hampton			2/43 H. A. G. H.
	B	W.O. H. Morris			
	C	W.O. H. Jordan			
45	A	S/Sjt. J. Bullin			
	B	" J. Edwards			
	C	" J. Ellis			
46	A	S/Sjt. G. A. Killshire			
	B	" D. Hancock			
	C	L/Sjt. B. J. Dassel.			
SECOND SALOON					
47	A	S/Sjts W. E. Jones			H. A. G. H.
	B	" R. Galeam			
	C	" L. E. Carroll			
	D	" W. Ward.			
48	A	S/Sjt. J. H. Hewell			H. A. G. H.
	B	" G. J. Watson			
	C	" J. Doyle			
	D	Sjt. E. Collins			
49	A	Sjt. J. P. Innes			W.O.'s Ward Homeward (2 Berths)
	B	" H. McDonald			
	C	" J. Jolly			
	D	" W. B. Gail			
50	A	Sjt. J. Gilchrist			W.O.'s Ward Homeward (2 Berths)
	B	" R. G. Guthrie			
	C	" J. McCabe			
	D	" V. G. Watt			

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

SECOND SALOON

H.T. "NEVASA."

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
53	A	Sgt L.H. Stokes			
	B	" R.B. Nicholl			
	C	" R.B. Quinn			
	D	" W.L. Best			
54	A	Sgt. W.M. Gardner			
	B	" J.M. Badenock			
	C	" J. Ware			
	D	" F. Mooney			
55	A	Sgt C.E. Bourne			
	B	" C.F. Lodge			
	C	" B.D. Taylor			
	D	" J.A. Cattermole			
56	A	Sgt. J. Williams			
	B	" J. Fergus			
	C	" H.C. Styles			
	D	" W. Logan			
57	A	Sgt. J. Thomas			Permanent Staff
	B	" D.M. Reid			
	C	" J. Cameron			
58	A	Sgt. G.W. Murray			
	B	" H.S. Crington			
	C	" R.P. Grant			
	D	" J. Fearnden			
59	A	Sgt. R.B. Richardson			Permanent Staff
	B	" J. Hudson			
	C	Sgt. R.R. Tothill			

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

H.T. "NEVASA."

~~2nd~~ THIRD SALOON

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
60	A	Sjt. B.K. Roberts.			2/12
	B	Sjt. B. J. Russell			
	C	Sjt. C.H. Knight			
	D	" R.K. Hingston			
61	A	Sjt. B.J. Quinn			2/12
	B	" Sjt. Bullette			
	C	" R.H. Wilson			
62	A	Sjt. J. Best			4. A.G.H.
	B	" G. Rice			
	C	" K. Harr			
	D	" R. Daw.			
63	A	Sjt. J.S. Gregory			4. A.G.H.
	B	" G.H. Morris			
	C	" J.P. Thomson			
64	A	Sjt. W.F. Keilly			4. A.G.H.
	B	" J.R. Johnson			
	C	" C.Z. Maxwell			
	D	" A.J. Beadle			
65	A	Sjt. R.J. Scott			4. A.G.H.
	B	lieut (Boy) L.G. Bratt.			
	C	10R 4 AGH.			
66	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

SECOND SALOON

H.T. "NEVASA."

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
67	A				
	B				
	C				
THIRD CLASS MAIN DECK					
69	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				
	F				
70	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
72	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
73	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
74	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

H.T. "NEVASA."

THIRD SALOON

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
75	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
76	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
77	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
78	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
79	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
80	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
 C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

THIRD SALOON

H.T. "NEVASA."

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
81	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
82	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				
LOWER DECK					Women's Hospital Homeward (3 Berths)
83	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				
	F				
84	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				
	F				
85	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				
	F				

A. B. or E. indicates Single Berth or Top Berth.
C. D. or F. indicates Lower Berth.

H.T. "NEVASA."

THIRD SALOON

Room	Berth	Passenger's Name	Embarkation	Destination	Remarks
86	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				
	F				
87	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				
	F				
88	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				
	F				
89	A				
	B				
	C				
	D				
	E				
	F				

M.V./S.S. " " "

BERTHING LIST.

Cabin No.	Berth	Passenger's Name	Corps	Destination
63,		3 Sits ACH		
64		4 Sits ACH		
65.		1 Sit ACH 2 O/R ACH		
66		4 O.R. ACH		
67		3 O.R. ACH		
69-82		4 ACH Total 56.		
83-89		4 ACH " 42.		
		Hospital	9 ACH.	
Hoop high Orderlies Room.			4 ACH	
RAMC Cabins			8 ACH	
Hoop Temp			10 ACH	

T. B. Butting. Accommodation

H. I. Newasser

No. 1. Main. Decks. 2/12. Bn. R. 92.

No. 2. " " " " " 7.

A. boy 2/43. 114.

B. " 2/43. 114.

C. " 2/43. 114.

D. " 2/43. 2.

Bn. HQ. 2/43. 3.

No. 2. Lower. Decks. St. Q. boy 2/43. 198.

1st R. boy 2/43. 138.

No. 3. Main. Deck. A. Boy 2/43. 112.

No. 4. " " Bn. HQ. 2/43. 64.
including batman.

J. Hunter sent
by HM AT
Newasser

Group Deck Accommodation
H. T. Newasa

No 1 Main Deck	2/12 Rein	92.
No 2	2/12 ..	7
A Coy	2/43 Bn	114
B .. ..	.. ..	114
C .. ..	.. ..	114
D .. ..	.. ..	2
B.H.Q	.. ..	3
No 2 Lower	H.Q 2/43 Bn	198
1st Reinf.	.. ..	138
No 3 Main Deck	D Coy	112
No 4	B.H.Q	64

J. Hunter Hunt
Acy HMAT
Newasa