

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

Item number: 8/5/2

2/2 Machine Gun Battalion

September 1943



2/2 AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

WAR DIARY

SEPTEMBER, 1943

MILNE BAY Wed 1  
(N.G.) Sep

Loading of LSTs now complete, and final arrangements in train for embarkation of personnel tomorrow morning.

Bn to have 37x3-ton trucks to move personnel to TURNBULL airstrip.

Appx "A" to Embarkation Order issued B, C & D Coys to move 0545 hrs, be in assembly area by 0715 hrs. Bn HQ, HQ Coy A Coy to move 0700 hrs, be in assembly area by 0845 hrs.

Appx  
"B"

1200 Infm received from 9 AUST DIV that our LSTs will NOT call at CHIVALRY, as was originally intended. Meals will be provided on board.

Promotion of Capt P.B.GREEN, OC A Coy, at present on detachment to 20 Aust Inf Bde, to rank of Major.

"  
Thurs

2 Sep 0445

Reveille

0515

Breakfast. B, C & D Coys move off 0550 hrs.

0700

Remainder of bn leaves WAIGANI area; tents left standing, to be pulled down by 1 Aust Tk Bn.

Rain, which fell during the night, again began to fall as trucks were about to move. Heavy rain fell until approx 0900 hrs, when it gradually eased off. Everyone soaked.

0745

At TURNBULL airstrip. Marched from vehs to Assembly areas, where LSTs were beaching. Troops stood in rain awaiting landing craft, which beached at intervals from 0800-1000 hrs. BnHQ and HQ Coy embarked in LST 475(145 Army) at 0955 following some difficulty in beaching. LCV used to bridge gap to ramp.

1130

All tps, vehs aboard and Lst moved out into anchorage, where remainder of Second Landing Gp anchored.

1330

Moving out towards northern passage.



SEA 2 Sep  
(cont)

1400 Passing into GOSCHEN STR. Passed NORMANBY Is, then through WARD HUNT STR during late afternoon, passing FERGUSON Is and GOODENOUGH Is (1800 hrs).

1800 Escort of 6 destroyers visible, in addition to escort of corvette, sub-chasers, etc moving in formation with the LSTs.

Friday  
3 Sep

Uneventful morning. Ship's AA guns fired in test bursts. In addition to standard armament of 6x20mm guns, each LST had Bofors mounted on deck amidships, port and starboard (4 Lt AA).

1100 Padre JAEGER (2/2 Aust MG Bn) conducted service on LST 145 as part of observance of the Day of Prayer requested by the King, in commemoration of the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities.

1400 Off BUNA-SANANDER coast, moving in slowly to anchorage.

1630 Practice alert. Anchored 1700 hrs approx 1 mile off shore, for the night.

Sjt SHEPHERD, D, Pte COWLEY, W (C Coy) disembarked BUNA (LOB) and Pte CASEY, R.C., evac with sore foot.

Saturday  
4 Sep

D Day

0630 Anchors aweigh and LSTs moving out to sea.

1250 Passing LCIs and other craft of No 1 Landing Gp. Destroyer escorts very active as convoy nears enemy waters.

1350 Unidentified planes sighted.

1357 Four DB/ "Vals" dived on convoy, attacking from high in the SE in a long dive, then in a steep dive attacking LST 143 from the port beam. Leading plane dropped four bombs, just as first alarm went. One near miss on starboard bow, two direct hits on stern. One bomb struck bridge and exploded, causing casualties. Second was armour-piercing, and penetrated to propeller shafts before exploding. Disabled the LST. D Coy of this Bn was on LST and Coy suffered 23 casualties. Of these 15 were evacuated to MOROBE, one evacuated after arrival at RED BEACH night 5/6 Sep, and 7 wounded remaining on duty.

Almost immediately after the dive-bombing attack, a strong force of 9 torpedo bombers



At SEA 4 Sep  
(cont)

attacked from the west, flying about 50-100 ft off the water. AA fire was brought to bear on them by the Bofors and lighter weapons. One Bofors on our LST (145) shot down one, damaged a second which soon afterwards crashed, and reported a hit on a Zero escort. A third enemy plane was also seen to crash into the sea. Our Fs intercepted during the attack, which was pressed home with great determination, but the results of interception are not known. LST 141 was torpedoed near the stern, and torpedoes narrowly missed other LSTs in the convoy. The casualties on LST 141 totalled 63, comprising 37 killed and missing believed killed, 23 wounded and evacuated, and 3 wounded remaining on duty. B Coy, 2/2 MG Bn suffered 6 casualties. NX27420 Pte THOMPSON, S.F., was reported missing, believed killed, and subsequently was reported killed. Cpl CLARK, C.V. (AACC att), Ptes MAHER, A;R;, and SMITH, J.H., were evacuated to hospital at MOROBE? to which damaged LSTs were towed after drifting helplessly for 6 hours. On 5 Sep Ptes CHURCHYARD, J.C. and TILLY, J., were also evac. Full casualty return from this craft (OC Tps - Capt F.R.K. STANILAND ) attached with Appx B

Appx.  
"B"

- 1630 Conference of offrs on LST 145, in preparation for landing at approx 2300 hrs tonight.
- 2030 Alert sounded. Believed own a/c-
- 2230 Troops moving to disembarkation stations, where gear already stacked.
- 2320 LST 145 beaches, closely followed by others, believed 146 and 142, then 144).
- 2335 First troops disembarking, and vehs coming off very quickly. Troops dump gear up beach, and immediately begin unloading of stores and remaining vehs.

NX34687 Lieut J.F LAVAN det for duty to 26 Aust Inf Bde (MG Offr 2/48 Bn).

BUSO sun  
(N.G;) 5 sep

- 0001 Unloading on LSTs in progress. All stores from all four craft on beach by 0330 hrs and LSTs move off for return voyage.
- 0345 Troops moving inland to bivouac areas. 2/2 MG Bn (less B and D Coys) in lightly timbered native gardens area 300 yds north of native village (BUSO 1). Rest till 0700 hrs.
- 0715 Working parties on beach again moving stores into dumps further inland. Work continued throughout

Appx  
"C"



Sun  
5 Sep  
(cont)

day, while US ESBN constructed road in to village, and RAE and 2/3 Pnr Bn began construction of jeep track, then Mt road, to BUSO RIVER, with clearing work going on to west of river.

BN HQ established 925399 (approx), with HQ Coy 50 yds south and C Coy temporarily estab area 924395 (also approx).

SITREP No 2 ( to 0800 hrs): 26 Aust Inf Bde moving along west track at first light, with 2/24 Bn on inland track and 2/4 Indep Coy following 26 Bde HQ. Two coys 2/13 Bn moving east to BUHEM R- 2/15 Bn moving to area between BUSO 3 and BUSO RIVER, on northern flank of DIV ADM AREA. Jeep track open to edge of kunai at 908413.

1430 HQ 9 Aust Div ,less Q branch, closed at 918408? and reopened vicinity ALUKI village.

1305 EA bombed BUSO No 2 village.

1318 Approx 9 twin-engined Bs bombed RED BEACH from high level. Damage nil, cas light.

1845 EA dropped 3 bombs in coastal area.

Posn at last light (sitrep 3): Two coys 2/13 Bn area BUARU (0339) with patrols on BUHEM RIVER. 2/17 Bn on line BUHEM R with patrols moving to BUNGA R 7942 (standing) and 8045. HQ 26 Bde 844434 2/24, 2/23 Bns SINGAUA Pltn area. Limit of traffic on WEST TRACK 124143 (photomap).

2010 EA dropped 13 bombs on beach area.

This morning our paratps landed NADZAB area, following by air attacks MARKHAM R VALLEY area by 60 B25s, 23 B24s and 1 B17. House at HEATH'S reported completely demolished.

Major GREEN now in charge of all beach defences at RED BEACH, with A Coy occupying defensive posns along beach area- Bombs fell very close to Maj GREEN'S HQ, which later moved to new posn further north (6 Sep).



BUSO  
(N.G.)

Monday  
6 Sep 43

- 0030 2/23 Bn standing patrol, mouth of BUNGA R counted party 107 Japs moving east.
- 0100 LANDING GP 3 (24 Aust Inf Bde) landed safely during the night, with personnel and contents of LSTs damaged 4 Sep. Convoy bombed during voyage but no hits. B and D Coys of this Bn arrived, with no further casualties, and moved into area immediately north and NE of BnHQ, after unloading stores. Unloading completed by 0430 hrs.
- 0700 2/23 Bn attacked Japs near copra shed, 821422. After brief fight, enemy withdrew, being pursued.
- 0830 2/23 Bn 300 yds east copra shed, applying pressure. D Coy 300 yds inland, working south behind Jap posns ; very hy going.
- 2/24 Bn moving through APO fishing village 845425 26 Bde HQ at APO village. 2/17 Bn moving TALI 834456. Delivery point for LCMs with stores from RED BEACH established near APO fishing village.
- 7 AUST DIV : report NADZAB airstrip in our hands and tpt aircraft landing 1300 hrs. Own troops also reported crossing MARKHAM R at Sheldon's and Kirkland's (2/2 Pnr Bn). HQ 7 Div at TSILI TSILI 1000 hrs. (junc MARKHAM and WAMPIT Rs)
- C.O., Adjt., Cpl OAKES (I) at Div HQ, ALUKI in mng.
- 1000 LCV moving from RED to YELLOW BEACH attacked by 5 Zeros. Slight cas. ESB shot down 1 Zero before being killed.
- 1120 4 Zekes strafed from 100 ft ALUKI (881425) ; nil damage or cas. Later made recce BUSO R.
- 1400 Approx 18 twin-engined bombers with F cover bombed RED BEACH causing some casualties and slight damage. Enemy Fs strafed, and 4 shot down. Two casualties from this unit - Lieut G.T. FERGUSON (B Coy), wounded knee ; and Pte CHAFFEY, A (Bn HQ), wounded on neck. Both evacuated thru CCS to hospital.
- Our TacR plane shot down 0900 hrs near HOPOI MISSION.
- 1330 D Coy, 2/23 Bn reached coast behind Japs and our tps surrounded and successfully attacked the copra shed posns. Total enemy casualties unknown, but 30 dead counted, including Captain and two Lieuts. Enemy tps were equipped with lifejackets indicating a landing from the sea. At last light 2/23 Bn estab in area 817423. 2/24 Bn adv through 2/23 Bn, and in contact with Jap rearguard 802422 inflicting some casualties before last light.



BUSO  
(N.G.) Mon 6 Sep  
(cont)

Supply posn improving. 3-tonners moving as far west as ALUKI, but very hy going west, through thick jungle and mud has held up RAE and Pnrs in construction of the road. to APO.

C Coy moved from area 898462<sup>7</sup> (approx) to 857432 acting as carriers of supplies to fwd tps. SINGAUA PLTN wet and swampy. C Coy strength 4 x 130.

1800 A Coy 2/13 Bn holding HOPOI MISSION. No enemy found; Pastor NEHLER, aged German missionary, cap, PW.

2020 EA dropped 6 bombs NW corner of DIV MAINT AREA. Our planes later over area.

B Coy, in charge Capt F;R;STANILAND/supply parties with LCMs on store L of C to APO fishing village during night.

2355 Light rain falling intermittently. Thunder and regular sheet lightning flashes.

Tuesday  
7 Sep  
(D plus  
3 )

During the night LCVs and LCMs landed stores and eqpt near APO fishing village. C Coy and D Coy this Bn acting as carrier parties.

Hy rain fell during latter half of the night, but morning fine.

EA dropped 8 bombs on RED BEACH.

One pl 2/23 engaged Jap party yesterday near 788426, killing 8.

1500 2/24 Bn still advancing NW along east bank of BUREP, and approx 2000 yds from mouth, with 2/23 Bn following. Enemy parties retiring along both banks of the river. Det of 2/23 holding bridgehead at mouth of the BUREP.

1345 HQ 24 Bde now 822423, with fwd elements of 2/28 Bn near BUREP and 2/43 Bn 829424. C Coy PIB at copra shed 823423.

Jap dead at 8242 included MOTO 2804115 IR, MOTO 2803102 IR and KAWA 3566239 IR.

0815 D Coy moved out from BUSO area on carrying duty.

1300 D Coy at ALUKI, proceeding SINGAUA via APO. C Coy now at SINGAUA.

1630 D Coy at APO, and stayed the night.

0900 Patrol 2/13 Bn to BUKAUA Mission area found no enemy. B Coy later exploited to HOPOI airstrip 080393. Reported usable except for kunai grass 6/7 ft high. 2/15 Bn unchanged.



Tues 7  
Sep  
(cont)

26 Bde continued adv along BUREP in afternoon, with 2/24 Bn leading. At last light 2/24 Bn 755469, 2/23 Bn 769447, HQ 26 Bde 768447, 2/4 Ind Coy 785441. 24 Bde : 2/28 Bn 788426 holding bridgehead over BUREP, with A Coy at 786426, 2/43 Bn area 815422, HQ 24 Bde 823422.

Wednesday  
8 Sep 43  
D plus 4

Raining.

A/WO ii HOWE, D reached BnHQ from C Coy. He and WO ii LUFF, C. (B Coy) leave tonight for BUNA, en route to OCTU in AUSTRALIA.

0940 6 Bettys, with F escort, bombed and strafed BUNGA R - SINGAUA area.

1100 C.O., Adj., RMO, Cpl OAKES left BnHQ for Div (jeep).

1200 Left jeep at ALUKI, walked on through APO, APO fishing village, BUREP R, to C Coy HQ at TIKHERENG village 788434 (Adj returned from ALUKI).

C Coy engaged in unloading, stacking stores from LCMs and LCVs which come in two missions nightly from RED BEACH.

1600 26 Bde less 2/48 Bn continued advance up BUREP R to 760472 and west towards the BUSU R. 2/24 at 7146, Tac Bde HQ with 2/23 Bn 7346, One pl PIB moving to BUSU qt 702509, one pl with 24 Bde. 2/4 Indep Coy moving towards Kunda Br, 6854.

24 Bde less 2/32 Bn continued adv along coast, 2/28 Bn leading. Small parties Japs encountered, but little opposition. At last light 28 Bn east bank BUSU to 765415, 43 Bn 755422 to 768400, Bde HQ 770420.

20 Bde - 2/13 Bn patrols to UKALIM and BUKAUA villages encountered no enemy. One pl 2/17 Bn KIAFIA 8056 at track junc R BUNGA-KIAFIA-MOMALILI and KIAFIA-GAWAN.

One sec 25-pdrs landed last night at mouth BUREP R and now in action 775452.

1930 General stand-to along 9 Div beaches ; warning of u/1 convoy 6 mls south HOPO MISSION.

D Coy this Bn moved to Copra shed(SINGAUA) and carried stores from APO fishing village to there for most of the day. Orders to move in early afternoon, to Rear 26 Bde HQ. Bivouaced night SINGAUA, near copra shed.

2245 C.O. and party left BUREP BEACH in LCV for RED BEACH.

2045 6 bombs dropped area 0240.



Thursday 0030 C.O., RMO, Cpl OAKES return to BnHQ.

9 Sep  
D plus 5

Heavy rain during night, and drizzling for most of the day.

Convoy from MOROBE reached RED BEACH safely during night.

Roads and tracks westward almost impassable.

Six shells in coastal area 1300 yds west of BUREP. Still small parties JAP stragglers between BUREP and BUSU Rs.

D Coy moved from copra shed to Rear HQ 26 Bde at 751478, where they arrived 1100 hrs. During move up one Jap encountered, shot by Lieut MOULDER, and he at once killed himself with a grenade. Lieut R W CAMERON (O.C.) contacted Brig WHITEHEAD during afternoon.

0907 Patrol of 2/28 Bn unable to cross BUSU mouth because of enemy SA fire. Standing patrol at mouth withdrawn. Patrols 1,000 yds up east bank failed to find other crossing places.

1100 A Coy 2/43 Bn, with one pl PIB, arrived 744418, with rest of Bn following. Unable to find crossing. 2/32 Bn 877427, no change.

1730 2/28 Bn commenced crossing BUSU mouth, and all on west bank by 1820 hrs.

2000 26 BDE : 2/24 Bn patrols to BUSU 4671 and downstream failed to find fordable crossings. 2/23 Bn in area 7247 and 2/48 7547. 2/4 Indep Coy moving up BUSU & last reported track junc with river 700509. One pl PIB now patrolling BUSU NW of 2/24 Bn.

2/17 Bn less one coy occupying protective posns around Tp of hy fd guns 770499 which are in action. 2/13 Bn local patrols, 2/15 Bn unchanged.

One coy 2/3 Pnr Bn moving to relieve Coy 2/17 at 412488 and two coys working on road ALUKI-APO, with rest of Bn in BUSU area.

C2 Pl this Bn preparing jeep track from TIKHERENG village to G BEACH. Coy kitchens set up.

7 AUST DIV : to 1300 hrs - Landings at NADZAB continue and strip being improved. 71 plane loads arrived so far. 2/25 Bn OLB MUNUM moving to YALU. 2/2 Pnr Bn less two coys 440545. 2/32 Bn (less five plane loads) at GABMATZUNG.



Thurs 9 2100  
Sep  
(cont)

C Coy moving down jungle track on east bank of BUREP to G BEACH in charge of Lieut BRERETON. About 200 yds from mouth of BUREP, shots fired into the party, and Lieut T. McD EWIN and A/WO ii FORREST, N., were fatally wounded. Both men were taken to a nearby ADS, and evacuated by LCM to RED BEACH, where they were admitted to 2/3 CCS in the early hours of the morning. Lieut EWIN had received a blood transfusion at ADS, and he survived an operation early next morning. WO FORREST died on the operating table at 0950 hrs 10 Sep.

B Coy loading stores RED BEACH, ferrying to G BEACH.

Friday  
10 Sep  
D plus 6

Heavy rain in the night, but weather clearing. Tracks in bad condition, and rain delayed movement of troops across the BUSU, which is a fast running (6 knots) turbulent stream. Bridging eqpt is being brought fwd to the mouth. 26 Bde continues recce for crossing further north. Slight enemy shelling by med guns on YANGA area.

09 50 A/WO ii N. FORREST died at CCS. Buried by Padre JAEGER in early afternoon.

D Coy approx 751478. Lieut CAMERON saw Brigadier WHITEHEAD; Coy carrying today for 2/4 Indep Coy from 731473 to 700510.

B Coy again loading and ferrying stores.

5 AUST DIV penetrating inner defences SALAMAUA after steady adv throughout the day.

Saturday  
11 Sep  
D plus 7

Convoy arrived from BUNA during night with 4 INF BDE (CMF-3 DIV), consisting of 22 Bn, 37/52 Bn, 29/46 Bn. Brigade relieving 20 AUST INF BDE during the day -- 22 Bn taking over HOPOI area from 2/13 Bn, 29/46 relieving 2/15 Bn, 37/52 to be used as labour.

C.O., Adjt walked to ALUKI, to find that 9 Div HQ has moved to APO near coast. Tracks muddy, and in many places impassable even to jeeps.



Sat 11 Sep  
(cont)

0830 B Coy 42 Bn (5 DIV) crossed FRANCISCO R and now in occupation of SALAMAUA airstrip.

D Coy No 1 gunners rejoined Coy on BUREP. Gun stores now TIKHERENG village in charge Tech Storeman and 3 ORs. Coy carrying for 2/48 Bn at 730475 and to Indep Coy.

No stores ferried tonight owing to hy surf.

Sunday 12  
Sep 43  
D plus 8

Lieut T. McD EWIN (C Coy) died at CCS this mng from GSW received night 9/10 Sep, after putting up good fight to recover. Buried in afternoon with the C.O., Lt-Col MACARTHUR ONSLOW, and a representative body of Offrs of this Bn attending.

0900 Cpl OAKES, Lieut MELVILLE left RED BEACH for APO, Arrived there 1230 hrs to find DIV HQ again moved on, to BUNGA R. Returned Bn HQ by 1700 hrs.

1120 Op Order No 11 issued by 9 Aust Div. 26 BDE to advance on LAE tomorrow, attacking SAWMILL and then one bn on axis NAMKAMUN-MALAHANG MISSION, and one bn on axis SAWMILL to north end of AIRSTRIP with ultimate objective MALAHANG MISSION and 717422 (immediately north of airfield).  
24 BDE to adv westerly with right of sector line NEW YANGA-WAGAN-triangle of rds 707405 to junc 717406-MALAHANG ANCHORAGE, exploiting to 708405-712392. 20 BDE moving west to APO area today. Three Tps 2/12 Fd Regt, one Tp 2/6 Fd Regt (14 guns) in sp 24 and 26 Bde ops. D Coy 2/2 MG Bn to move 0900 hrs tomorrow to Div dump at 26 Bde jeephead, to provide local protection and labour.

Lieut V C MOULDER (D Coy) att 2/23 Bn as Machine Gun Offr. Lieut J F LAVAN with 2/48 Bn in a similar role.

A Coy now under comd 4 BDE.

LAE heavily bombed and shelled during early morning, and also later in day.

Cpl BOLTON (C Coy) and party took carrier party of approx 70 natives fwd with stores.

1150 12 BETTYS with Zero escort bombed our arty posns on BUREP, damaging one gun. Some casualties, incl 2/17 Bn personnel in area.

1800 100 men B Coy loading and ferrying stores to G BEACH  
The peninsula, port and town of SALAMAUA are now in our hands. Enemy remnants are being driven north by 5 AUST DIV. Much eqpt captured.



sun 12 Sep 2000  
(cont)

SITUATION now is :

24 BDE - A Coy 2/28 Bn at 729395, remainder between 73 easting grid and bridgehead area. 2/43 Bn west of YANGA track to 734406 with one Coy on outskirts NEW YANGA village where Japs have at least 3 MMGs. 2/32 Bn E bank BUSU. Bde HQ at 750406.

26 BDE - No change despite new attempts to cross BUSU. 2/24 Bn have constructed timber bridge over first stream and preparing to bridge main stream. Area under enemy mortar MG fire. 2/4 Indep Coy engaged Jap parties Kunda Br, inflicting cas, and dispersing remainder. B Pl occupied MUSOM, moving down west bnk BUSU;

20 BDE - Relieved by 4 Bde and now moving W. Bde HQ tonight 917415, 2/13 Bn 911407, with C Coy at copra shed, 2/15 Bn 921437.

4 BDE - 22 Bn relieved 2/13 Bn YELLOW BEACH area, 29/46 Bn relieved 2/15 Bn RED BEACH area, 37/52 Bn less two Coys, SINGAUA, two coys APO.

Our arty put down harassing fire throughout the day.

7 AUST DIV: 2/25 Bn on 10 Sep moved from YALU, in contact with small numbers of enemy vicinity WHITTAKER'S. 2/33 Bn en route YALU. 2/2 Pnr Bn patrols forward along MARKHAM from NARAKAPOR. On 11 Sep 25 BDE Gp (less 2/31 Bn) along MARKHAM RD towards Heath's and track to BUMBU R from YALU. 2/25 Bn contact enemy track junc JENSEN'S. Pnrs at MARKHAM PT. 503 Para Inf patrols CAMP DIDDY and ERAP R. B Coy PIB at CHIVASING



BUSO Monday a.m.  
13 Sep  
D plus 9

Convoy arrived from CHIVALRY with approx 1400 LOB personnel of 9 AUST DIV, incl most of 2/2 MG Bn personnel left there. Maj SEARLE (2 i/c), Capt J G CAMERON and small party remaining at CHIVALRY with Bn Stores.

C Coy (G BEACH) moved more than 100 tons stores last night, incl arty and engineering. Expect to move tomorrow to D BEACH (west of BUSU). Capt CRIST arrived G BEACH last night.

0815 D Coy moving back under comd 26 Bde to former bivouac site 752470. Spent remainder of day working on jeep track through to BUSU R.

L.O.B. personnel to rejoin Coys.

1340 Padre SEATREE (9 Div HQ) conducted service at TIKHERENG for C Coy, incl memorial to Lieut EWING and CSM FORREST.

2000 SITUATION now : 24 BDE - 2/28 Bn moving SW along coast from first light. At 1030 hrs attacked 50 Japs at 728395 killing 13. At 1530 hrs killed 12 enemy in posn 725394 and remainder fled. At last light fwd tps 724394, enemy still withdrawing. 2/43 patrols driven off from NEW YANGA. At 1530 hrs, following 10 minutes arty preparation, Bn attack. Enemy retired, leaving 2 dead. Bn pushed on towards WAGAN and last light at 727406. 2/32 Bn crossed BUSU during night and occupied bridge-head area. 20 BDE moving BUREP area. Staged last night APO. 2/17 Bn at BUSU, taking over bridge-head. 26 BDE One coy 2/48 Bn crossed BUSU at mouth, reached 738415 for night. Bridging of BUSU proceeding, and operation delayed 24 hrs. Enemy posns north and MALAHANG and SAWMILL registered with arty R.

Wirraway landed airstrip 8942, reports surface only usable by Tiger Moths without surfacing.

7 AUST DIV : 12 Sep Ops by 25 Bde continued in HEATH'S AREA. Patrols have followed headwaters of BUTIBUM R from YALU north to CAMP DIDDY and west to ERAB R. Patrols to BOANA. Landings at NADZAB continued.



BUSO Tuesday  
14 Sep  
D plus 10

Bn still in BUSO area, with A Coy on beach defence role, B Coy and HQ Coy providing loading parties, and C and D Coys unloading and carrying for forward tps.

0800 C Coy began move along beach track from TIKHERENG village to BUSU. Majority of Coy across BUSU at D BEACH area by 1500 hrs (Ref 741402 LAE 1/25,000) Night's work was not heavy.

Area shelled for some time by enemy arty incl air burst. No casualties C Coy. Also shelled area 300 yds out to sea.

D Coy moved to 2/24 Bn area 713463, gun stores following by jeep. Arrived 0930 hrs. 2/24 Bn had got two Coys across river during last night, but remainder of Bn still in area. Commenced to cross river 1830 hrs, followed by 2/48 Bn and 2/23 Bn. Owing to narrow bridge and difficulty of crossing, not completed until 0600 hrs. Some enemy mortar fire.

0900 Warning Order for move of B Coy to BUREP. Possibility of Bn moving to upper BUSU.

Wednesday 0700  
15 Sep  
D plus 11

B Coy moving out on march to BUREP R. Reached APO approx 1530 and camped for night on BUREP.

Padre JAEGER arrived D BEACH (C Coy) on second mission last night. Some shelling of D BEACH in morning by enemy.

In the coastal sector 24 BDE continued their adv today. At first light 2/28 Bn cleared enemy posns 300 yds west of MALAHANG ANCHORAGE, and then moved on to 711391. 2/32 Bn advancing on MALAHANG MISSION in afternoon. 20 BDE crossed BUSU R and now occupying southern end MALAHANG airstrip and western approaches to it. Our a/c heavily bombed, strafed MALAHANG and CHINATOWN areas. 26 BDE cleared SAWMILL area before mid-day. 2/48 Bn passed through and by 1700 hrs were at the northern end airstrip, with 2/23 at 694426.

7 AUST DIV - 25 Bde closing on LAE, 21 Bde MACS CAMP with 2/14 Bn moving towards BOANA. US Ptp Regt patrols 592530.



Wed 15 Sep  
(cont)

5 AUST DIV - 2 coys 2/15 Bn in contact with enemy retreating north from SALAMAUA near Sugarloaf Mt.

1310 C2 Pl fired 3 belts per gun, normal rate, from ref 729394 at an enemy barge on bearing 223° from guns and range 2,100 yds. Arty had tried unsuccessfully to range onto barge, and Brig EVANS asked Capt NICHOLAS to try with VMGs. Bullets on, around and all over target from first burst. Barge sank an hour later. Believed to have been zused as an OP by enemy.

0600 D Coy moved across BUSU in wake of inf, and now carrying stores, building dumps. Pls providing protection for area.

Thursdax  
16 Sep  
D plus 12

BnHQ, HQ Coy, A Coy to move today to APO, enroute for upper BUSU R. Packs dumped in charge of Lieut WALL and party left at RED BEACH. Stores, incl gun stores, taken on two 3-tonners and 5 jeeps

1030 Cpl OAKES and adv party 5 leave BUSU village. Rest of party move off approx 1100 hrs, having lunch on the way.

1700 Main body on coast near APO fishing village, bivouac for night. Many stragglers arrived late. Rest disturbed during night by EA which tried to strafe ESB barge off shore. No damage. Considerable bombing heard from direction RED BEACH.

1430 Word received, through C.O., that LAE has fallen, after 12 days campaign.

B Coy marched from BUREP to jeephead on BUSU 7146. Camped for night. To carry rations to 2/24 Bn tomorrow.

0900 D Coy at 706463. Responsible for defence bridgehead and getting sups across river. C Coy still at D BEACH, unloading stores from barges.

Learned that LAE was entered from west and east almost simultaneously, and some dispute as to first tps in. 2/32 Bn claim honour for 9 Div, and Maj MOLLARD of that unit believed first offr. 7 Div det raised first Australian flag.



BUREP- Friday 0900 BnHQ, HQ Coy, A Coy depart APO for BUSU R  
BUSU Rs 17 Sep with tpt leading.

Main party camped for night at jeep track turn-off at head of BUREP. Cpl OAKES and a small adv party reached BUSU, and bivouaced for night in B Coy area.

LAE area being cleared up, with Brig WHITEHEAD at present in command.

BUSU R Saturday  
18 Sep

0930 HQ, A Coys arrived east bank BUSU. To cross to Bn area on west bank.

D1 and D2 Pls begin clearing of jeep tracks up W bank of BUSU towards Kunda Br area, to supply 2/24 and Indep Coy. Track passable to 697506.

Orders received by Capt NICHOLAS (OC C Coy) to report to Brig WHITEHEAD tomorrow. C Coy to be under comd Lt-Col AINSLIE (2/48 Bn) for loading and unloading LSTS for operation DIMINISH.

7 AUST DIV : Successful attack by 2/6 Indep Coy (TSILI TSILI FORCE) on KAIPIT (8891) inflicted 120 enemy casualties, incl 50 killed in bayonet charge. Followed by airborne landing of 21 Bde tps (2/16) and occupation of the airfield. Found that strip had recently been cleared and lengthened 2,500 ft by the Japanese. 2/14 Bn encountered opposition from Japs at BOANA, but enemy withdrew.



BUSU R Sunday  
19 Sep

Bn settling in new area. BnHQ, HQ Coy, A Coy, B Coy, D Coy now concentrated. A Coy party on carrying trip to jeephead on MUSOM track for 2/24 Bn.

- 0900 Capt NICHOLAS at Bn HQ. Conference of Coy Comds. C Coy now to move back to BUREP with 20 Bde for DIMINISH operation, for which 2/23 and 2/48 Bns of 26 Bde will provide loading and unloading parties with LSTS taking ~~the~~ stores for the operation. Approx 120 tons will be carried in each of 6 LSTS. C Coy were at first to form part of this loading group, but this later changed to partly operational role with 20 BDE GP. Appx  
"E"
- 0940 C.O., Capt NICHOLAS, STANILAND, Cpl OAKES on visit to LAE, to see Brig WHITEHEAD; Scene of devastation in LAE area, with huge ~~cat~~ tatters from big bombs, houses destroyed, and much Jap junk lying about, particularly on waterfront.
- Lieut V.C. MOULDER and Pte MILES, rejoin unit ex 2/23 Bn, with whom they saw latter part of the operation.
- 1230 C Coy LOB personnel leave D Coy to rejoin their own Coy at D BEACH.
- 21 BDE HQ now established at KAIAPIT with 2/16 Bn.
- Party of 10 men from D Coy extending jeep track north from kunai.
- 2045 EA dropped 2 bombs BUSO R area, harmlessly, after nuisance cruise over area for some time.

Monday  
20 Sep

- 0800 Capt NICHOLAS reports to Brig WINDEYER at 20 Bde HQ. C Coy still west of BUSU, awaiting LCMs to cross.
- QX 1613 Sjt RAMSAY (Pl Sjt C2) prom A/WO ii vice Sjt FORREST (decd), CSM. L/Cpl E; G. BRANDRICK, MM, prom A/Sjt as Pl Sjt C". Sjt KELLY, IV.E., refused post, remaining as Sec Sjt.
- 1530 Conference on DIMINISH at 20 Bde HQ, attended by Capt NICHOLAS. Coy task on landing to take over from B Coy 2/17 defence of northern flank, with guns sited on feature north bank of SONG R. Also beach defence and unloading. Appx  
"E"
- 2/4 Indep Coy found 4 Japs and attacked them



GAWAN 2 719587.

9 AUST DIV OP ORDERS 15 & 16 issued for DIMINISH.

D Coy working on jeep track along upper BUSU.  
Complete to jeephead at 697515 by afternoon.

Appx  
"E"

Tuesday  
21 Sep

Preparations for departure of DIMINISH Force from G BEACH tonight. Beach busy scene during the afternoon, with 4 LSTS beached side by side and other craft, including APDs moving to and fro or anchored seaward. Destroyer escort standing off. 20 BDE bns assembled along lower BUREP and BUNGA Rivers, ready to embark by 1630 hrs.

1800 6 enemy Bs, in two flights of 3, with F escort, came over G BEACH but dropped their bombs harmlessly. Heavily engaged by Bofors and by heavier Naval AA. Our Fs in pursuit later, and reported 4 Bs shot down.

1500 C Coy reach G BEACH from BUSU, and guns cleaned in readiness for embarkation approx 1730 hrs. Lieut Brereton to act as 2 i/c, Lieut Gee OC No 1 Pl, Lieut Armstrong C2, and Lieut Hall C3, with Lieut Jeffcoat carried surplus.

Reallotment of areas by 9 Div. This Bn to move to southern half of square 7146, on east bank of BUSU. 24 BDE on east bank of BUSU above us, and 26 Bde on west bank BUREP 747490-765450.

APPX  
D

Appts and proms : NX29578 Pte FOLEY, T M and NX31866 Pte HANDSAKER prom L/Cpls. QX5942 Pte PATTERSON, C F prom A/Cpl w.e.f. 8 Sep.

JAP party, approx organised strength 329, located moving NW on saddle 649569. Two Coys 2/24 Bn in MUSOM-GAWAN area moving towards BOANA.



Wednesday 0445  
22 Sep  
( D Day  
DIMINISH)

- Landing effected FINSCHHAFEN area approx 6468. Freshly dug defences on SCARLET BEACH, but these quickly overcome. First objective - line 642700-618685 to 620655-village 632660- coast 647667 by 0940 hrs. Unloading of craft complete by 0940 hrs.
- 1500 20 Bde HQ at ~~64~~ 637685.
- 1700 2/17 Bn one coy ~~7~~ 640692 with Pl moving BONGA tk, one coy 617685. 2/15 Bn attacked enemy in bunkers 634670, causing 20 Jap casualties ; ours light. 2/13 Bn fwd elements north end FINSCHHAFEN airfield. Arty shelling town. Two pls 2/2 MG Bn taken over defence beach from 2/17 Bn.
- 2000 2/16 Bn moved to KAIAPIT, 2/6 Indep Coy, B Coy PIB KAIAPIT area. 2/14 Bn NADZAB airstrip. 21 BDE preparing to continue adv up MARKHAM VALLEY.
- Enemy air force 30/35 Bs with 40 Fs was intercepted by 110 Allied Fs over FINSCHHAFEN area, and 39 BA destroyed, 4 probable, for loss of 4 P38s, with one pilot safe. Hy attacks by our aircraft on CAPE GLOUCESTER-FINSCHHAFEN.
- Bn to move back across BUSU tomorrow morning.

Thursday  
23 Sep

- Bn (less C Coy) moves to new area, 300 yds south of BUSU Bridge, on east bank. Lightly timbered, secondary growth.
- DIMINISH SITUATION to 2000 hrs - 2 Coys 2/15 Bn on BUMI R 620622, two Coys 635601. 2/13 Bn 6263, 2/17 Bn 6368. Enemy dug in south of BUMI R. Enemy Bs over SCARLET BEACH 1750 hrs.
- 1400 22 Bn (4 Bde) adv tps 319393, in contact with enemy 315395.
- Patrols 2/4 Indep Coy and 2/24 Bn contact enemy 6355-6356, killed 18 Japs, 1 PW.
- 7 AUST DIV - 2/2 Pnr Bn patrols to BOANA. 2/27 Bn arr KAIAPIT from MORESBY. 2/16 Bn 788923 with patrols UMI R. 2/14 Bn NADZAB.
- 24 AUST INF BDE forming Brigade Gp, with B Coy this Bn, det Div Sigs, det Lt AA, 6 Fd Regt, 13 Fd Coy, det PIB, det AASC, det ESB. Gp to move for trg to area 714463.



Thurs 23 Sep  
(cont)

Request from Div for Staff tables for movement showing number of personnel, vehs, weight unit eqpt. Bn less 3 Coys, by 1200 hrs tomorrow.

APPX

D

Move of 4 Bde units and 2/3 Pnr Bn ordered.

BUSU Friday  
24 Sep

Camp improvements in Bn area.

Return submitted to Div, ref Staff Tables. Approx weight unit, less 3 Coys, 9 tons excl amm. Two 3-tonners on issue at present, att AASC.G BEACH, four jeeps with unit. If all vehsn moving with unit, these 2 tons surplus. Approx weight MG Coy stores 3-tons, first line amm 7 tons - total, 10 tons. Personnel, 19 offrs 276 ORs.

APPX  
D

Raining during morning - overcast throughout the day.

1330 Battalion Parade by C.O. in clearing behind D Coy. Lessons from recent ops, discipline, pilfering, future trg and work.

2/24 Bn found well-worn track, apparently from YALU to spur 618558-625558, thence down creek to 645565. Evidence much movement some weeks past, abandoned eqpt. Pursuit of Jap remnants continues in difficult country. Log bridge over BUSU located 6159. Small party of Japs found 635573, but fled.

DIMINISH- to 2000 hrs : Two Coys 2/15 Bn moved W along BUMI to outflank Jap posns near mouth. Reached river at 612595 and established bridgehead against hy opposition. By 1600 hrs one Coy on high ground 615291. Going difficult and precipitous. At 1600 hrs four Fls 2/13 Bn passed through 2/15 bridgehead 615595 after arty support reduced enemy fire. By 1700 hrs the bridgehead was being widened. 2/15 Bn (D Coy 617593, B Coy 621598, BnHQ A & C at KAMLOA). 2/13 Bn (C Coy 620592, D Coy 620599, B 621601, Bn HQ & A 621608). 2/17 Bn, less two Coys, 631615, D Coy 580655, one coy area SCARLET BEACH.

LCV available on request Q for transfer of unit packs, stores RED BEACH to G BEACH.

1800 Coy Comds conference at C O's hut.



Fri 24 Sep 1230 12 EA escort 50 Fs dropped 560 bombs on fd  
)cont) gun bty FINSCHHAFEN airfield area, causing  
some cas, but no damage to guns.  
1000 22 Bn fwd tps TAMIGIDU. Dumps cap at 312394  
325390, 330389, incl amn, pet and tools.

Saturday  
25 Sep

NX23245 Pte TRIGGER, M. marched out to Recepn  
Camp on transfer to 7 & 8 Aust Spec Int Pers  
Sec.

NX30705 Cpl IHLEIN, N to be prom A/Sjt (Ord Rm)  
vice Sjt CHEGWIDDEN (X List), w.e.f 16 Aug.

2/24 Bn to relieved 2/4 Indep Coy at KUNA BR  
area, role to deny it to the enemy.

All bridges between incl BUSO R and APO will be  
removed by Engrs commencing tomorrow. All vehs  
and stores must be clear APO by 1200 hrs.

Engr bridge across BUSU now open for traffic,  
with main bridge three-spans long, and second  
bridge to the north over western channel. Will  
carry up to 3-tonners and arty, one veh at a  
time.

2000 20 BDE POSN : Now reported SATELBERG occupied ,  
strong dug-in posns. D Coy 2/17 astride track  
580655. Slow progress by fwd tps in passage of  
BUMI R. Going difficult, and enemy resisting  
strongly in dug-in posns. Our arty engaging.  
Construction of tracks, sups, building up res  
before further advance. EA attacked at 0450,  
0700, 0730 hrs and 1730 hrs. At 0730 hrs 9  
BETTYS hit MDS, SCARLET BEACH, causing some cas  
and damage to vehs. Barge movement to and from  
LANGEMAK BAY heard for past two nights.  
22Bn reached MONGI R yesterday. Enemy withdrew  
last night after MMG, LMG mortar fire. Patrol 3  
mls east of river.

Patrol 2/4 Indep Coy to log br 617595 found large  
camp, capacity 1,500. Five Japs killed in camp.  
Natives state 200 enemy left area making for  
MADANG. Area 640574-620502 clear of enemy.

7 AUST DIV - Patrolling fwd from KAIAPIT continues.  
2/16 Bn 784923.



BUSU R Sunday 0900 Church parade by Padre JEAGER  
26 Sep 43 Fine, cloudless day.

Salvage air mail received.

2/24 Bn began relief of Indep Coy at KUNDA BR.  
Patrols northward.

Censorship instn issued, permitting mention of  
action.

20 BDE : Enlarging bridgehead to south bank of  
BUMI R against opposition. 2/13 Bn less one Coy  
now south of river, with fwd elements engaging  
enemy posns 617590-619590. Two coys 2/15 Bn  
made some progress against enemy opposition east  
of line 623595-624597. Enemy defences in depth  
through SALANKAUA PLTN. EA attacked 0810 and  
1705 hrs, mil damage. (SCARLET BEACH and AIRFIELD)  
22 Bn patrols secured beach at 407425 ; no  
contact with enemy. Tomorrow one Coy 22 Bn will  
move from YELLOW BEACH to rejoin Bn near mouth  
MONGI R. 22 Bn will continue present role , next  
bound to MANGGE PT 523421.

7 AUST DIV : 2/14 Bn now complete at KAIAPIT.  
Enemy evacuated SAGERAK on approach patrol 2/16  
Bn, who occupied village. 2/6 Indep Coy 788922  
with patrol NARUAPUM. 2/16 Bn 822910, 2/14 835905,  
2/27 Bn 850920, HQ 21 Bde 855910, B Coy PIB 854896.

Monday  
27 Sep 43

Cpl IHLEIN prom A/Sjt. Cpl KNIGHT, V.H. prom  
A/Sjt (w.e.f. 13 Aug vice WO ii HUNTER, J.L. (A Coy)  
0900 B Coy on route march to LAE. Returned 1500 hrs.

2/24 Bn relief of 2/4 Indep Coy complete, and  
latter now concentrated area 793425.

A2 Pl working on construction of corduroy jeep  
track through scrub from kunai to jeephead 7051,  
and A3 Pl widening and improving carrier track  
to KUNDA BR and MUSOM.

Heavy air strike by our a/c on airfield and  
shipping WEWAK area. 50/60 grounded a/c , seven  
intercepting Fs, destroyed ; 3 fighters and  
one tanker sunk, others damaged. Own losses, 3  
B25s.



Mon 27 Sep  
(cont)

20 BDE : 2/15 Bn now enclosing on north and west enemy posns SALANKAUA PLTN, with coys 630590, 628594, 628598, 635601. Demonstrations 1015 hrs mouth of BUMI provoked vigorous enemy reaction with MGs, mortars, 75mm.

1300 C Coy 2/13 Bn attacked and cap posn 622591 at bayonet point. Bn moving SE along spur in difficult country against opposition. Last light coys at 620588, 625587, 627588, 623593. 2/17 Bn less two Coys 630614. Bde HQ 626626. Increased enemy activity SATELBERG area. D Coy 2/17 drove off small enemy parties 579656.

22 Bn crossed MONGI R 0800 hrs to MANGGE PT.

1645 9 EA dropped 54 bombs north of R SONG, nil damage or cas. C Coy to have MMG shoot in SALANKAUA PLTN.

7 AUST DIV - Patrols 2/16 Bn reached RUMU and ANTIGIWAN, no sign recent occupation. 2/6 Indep Coy ereported 70 Japs area NARUAPUM, now patrolling this area in strength. Adv HQ 18 Bde now NADZAB.

Tue sday  
28 Sep

D Coy on route march to LAE, all day.

0600 Own a/c bombed and strafed LANGEMAK BAY area, 7 A20s.

Jap patrols cut sig wire between D Coy 2/17 Bn at 580655 and pl 613664. Coy posn attacked three times during night, repulsed with casualties to Japs. Ours nil.

Two Coys 2/13 Bn advanced to 634588 and 637587 with light cas. 22 Bn reached MANGGE PT 1300 hrs, no contact.

1530 7 A20s with 12 Vultee DBs attacked enemy posns LANGEMAK BAY.

Message from Div: Tomorrow 22 Bn will start move to KASANGA 6044. Bn and ESB to report on beaches, anchorages, hideouts for barges, between incl MANGGE PT and Kasanga.

B 24s with F escort bombed WEWAK, starting fires. Eight of 20 EFs destroyed, 3 probable, without loss. Main amn dump reported hit. 8 B24s bombed BOGADJIM.



Tues 28 Sep  
(cont)

7 AUST DIV - HQ 25 Bde now KAIAPIT. 2/14  
Bn patrol moving to 789045, 2/16 Bn to 786925 with  
patrols SAGERAK. 2/6 Indeo Coy patrolling to  
780990. B Coy PIB met small party Japs 790045.

C1 Pl moved Sec out along BONCA track to  
695657 to cover it. Hy air raids on FINSCHHAFEN  
one by B25s. No enemy raids.

Wednesday  
29 Sep 43

Light showers during early morning, until  
approx 1000 hrs. Overcast.

GROs received, including honours and awards  
list. The King has been graciously pleased  
to approve that the following be Mentioned  
in recognition of gallant and distinguished  
services in the Middle East during the period  
1st May 1942 to 22nd October 1942 :

QX 6364 Lieut F. HERBERTSON  
NX14551 Lieut(T/Capt) F.A. VARLEY  
QX19119 Lieut R.J.R. BENNETT  
QX 1613 Sjt J.G. RAMSAY  
NX27163 Sjt (now Lieut) H.J.C. COCKRAM  
QX 2483 L/Sjt E.B. INSCH  
NX52542 L/Sjt F.W.A. WARD  
QX 2218 Cpl H.F. BOYD  
NX66063 Cpl E.E. OAKES  
QX12051 Pte J.D. NIMMO  
NX30159 Pte K.C. WRIGHT

(GO 82)

DIMINISH - 20 Bde : One coy 2/15 adv south across  
MT ford 631600 moving through abandoned enemy  
posns. Reached ILEBEE Ck, where came under enemy  
fire KAKAGOG area. Enemy mortars, MGs and one  
75mm active SALANKAUA PLTN. Engaged by our arty.  
Two Coys 2/13 Bn adv on high ground west of  
KAKAGOG in thick jungle, by rain and steep  
ravines. Progress slow. At last light 629588 &  
630587. Patrols 2/17 Bn adv 1,500 yds from  
posn at 580656 without finding enemy. Patrols  
in strength moving fwd towards SATELBERG.

1300 22 Bn fwd tps one mile west KASANGA 575436, no  
contact.



Wed 29 Sep  
(cont)

Move of remainder 4 BDE - B Coy 29/46 Bn and Adv HQ 4 Bde remain RED BEACH. 29/46 Bn less 2 Coys will be relieved tomorrow by 2/3 Pnr Bn det and move to MALAHANG ANCHORAGE. Relief by LCVs. 2/3 Pnr Bn responsible protection RED BEACH, provision labour, etc.

C Coy- raid by lone EA near HQ. Quiet day.

7 AUST DIV - 2/31 and 2/33 Bns at KAIAPIT. 21 BDE crossed the UMI R, moving to MARAWASA. HQ 15 BDE and part 24 Bn (3 Div) arr NADZAB area.

Thursday  
30 Sep 43

B Coy on Pl trg, west bank of BUSU.

Routine Orders published.

C Coy (FINSCHHAFEN) Coy HQ and C<sup>2</sup> moved fwd of Bde HQ (photomap 146155). C1 and X C2 Pls remaining in posn on SONG R. Settled in new location by 1615 hrs.

2/43 Bn arrived SCARLET BEACH during night. Relief by them of 2/17 Bn completed by 1545 hrsm and 2/17 Bn now concentrating north of R BUMI. 2/13 Bn less C Coy moved to FUP preparatory to Bn attack KAKAGOG from NW. A and B Coys 2/15 Bn now dug in on knoll west ILEBBE CK, small force approx 500 yds facing strong Jap posn on ridge east of creek.

4 Bde- Patrols 22 Bn reached tk junc 641487 1500 hrs without contact, but indications recent enemy withdrawal along track to LOGAWENG.

PIB patrols to KEMEN (2/24) found numerous fires in area. Natives report 40/50 Japs stragglers vicinity.

7 AUST DIV : 2/16 Bn WANKON HILL 652016, 2/14 Bn moving WANKON to MARAWASA, 2/27 Bn RAGITSUMA. 2/6 Indep Coy moving to ATSUNAS. Patrol swam RAMU R and ambushed 100 Japs west of KESAWAI, inflicting cas.

1400 Message (O 483) received that enemy apparently withdrawing from FINSCHHAFEN, and elements 20 Bde may be expected LANGEMAK BAY shortly. 22 Bn to move tomorrow, KASANGA to LUKI 6650.

*Raymond P. Oakes, Cpl*  
for  
I.O., 2/2 Aust MG Bn Lieut

*Macarthur*

Lt. Col.,  
C.G. 2/2 Aust. M.O. Bn.



A COY DIARY

- Wed 1 Sep Capt GREEN apptd Major.
- 2 Sep Coy moved to No 1 Beach, MILNE BAY and began loading onto LST 144. Maj GREEN and Pte NELSON on boat No 33 and Ptes MacMahon and MacMAW on No 30. Convoy pulled out during afternoon.
- Fri 3 Sep Convoy reached BUNA and several went ashore to see LOB personnel. Maj GREEN was one of landing party. As this was the anniversary of outbreak of war, some boats held church services. A Coy's did not.
- Sat 4 Sep Convoy was attacked by Jap planes, raid lasting from 1345 hrs to 1415 hrs. Two ships were hit. Our ship was strafed, and many holes were left over the deck. No casualties on our ship. At approx 2315 hrs we made a landing at a point some 15 miles east of LAE. Landing was completed by 0130 hrs 5 Sep. Maj GREEN met the LST as we landed.
- Sun 5 Sep A Coy detailed to take up beach defence. This was completed by Sunday afternoon. Maj GREEN now i/c of all beach defences at RED BEACH.
- Mon 6 Sep Bombers and fighters attacked food dumps, etc., and bombs fell very close to Maj GREEN's HQ. Later moved to new posn north-east along the beach. Maj GREEN received a jeep from C.O.
- Tues 7 Sep Planes were over, but no bombs dropped.
- Wed 8 Sep Quiet day with Pls well in posn. Started to rain tonight, and continued throughout Thurs and Friday.
- Sun 12 Sep Now under comd 4 BDE. LOB personnel arrived.
- Mon 13 Sep LOB personnel rejoined Pls. Maj GREEN and Lieut HERBERTSON attended the funeral of Lieut EWING.
- Thurs 16 " Coy under comd Bn again. Moved from RED BEACH with Bn HQ and HQ Coy and marched as far as APO.
- Fri 17 Sep March continued, and reached head of BUREP R. Stores left near mouth of BUREP.
- Sat 18 Sep Marched to BUSU R and camped on west bank. Coy had five evacuations on Thurs 16 Sep - Cpl MATHESON, Ptes BAYLIS, TRIGGER CRAWFORD and LYONS.
- Sun 19 Sep Coy detailed to carry stores tp head of BUSU R, returning same day. Sjt ROWE and 10 ORs were sent as guards to native carriers, staying up BUSU R for two days. They were then relieved by a det of A3 Pl, and returned on Wed 22 Sep - Pte MacMAHON evacuated.
- Thurs 23 Sep Coy moved camp to east bank of BUSU R. Move completed by night. A3 Pl moved to rejoin remainder of Pl at head of BUSU R.
- Fri 24 Sep Coys built shelters, etc., and marked Coy areas. Received a Comforts Fund issue from Bn.
- Sat 25 Sep A2 Pl moved up the river and started work on corduroying of jeep track through scrub to ANGAU dump. The work will take approx 10 dys. Pte TRIGGER, M. trans to Australia.
- Sun 26 Sep Church parade held with A1 and Coy HQ attending. Ptes CRAWFORD and LYONS rejoined Coy ex CCS.
- Mon 27 Sep Pte SMITH, T evac. A1 Pl moved out to jeep track and started work.
- Tues 28 Sep Pte HARRISON, G evac.



B COY DIARY

- 2 Sep 0415 Reveille
- 0600 Coy moves out in tpt to A assembly area, MILNE BAY. The move was well carried out, and Coy under Capt CRIST arrived on time.
- 0800 All personnel embarked on LST 141 (Navy 471). Total personnel aboard 419 all ranks. The weather was particularly wet, rain coming down in sheets. Everyone most uncomfortable.
- 1330 Convoy 6 LSTs, with escort of 5 sub-chasers, put to sea. S/Sjt DAVIS as Ship's QM, and meals throughout excellent.
- 1430 Capt CRIST attends conference called by OC Tps, Capt F;R;K; STANILAND, and immediately afterwards passed on relevant infm regarding ship's standing orders, emergency drills, etc.
- 1530 Practice emergency drill - (a) General Quarters; (b) Abandon Ship. Everyone in Coy has a lifejacket, although some tps on board without them. The Coy is occupying the tp accomodation areas each side of ship, on deck above the tank deck. With the exception of 2/4 Indep Coy, who are occupying part of the crew's quarters aft, all other tps aboard are living on the weather deck. The rain has now stopped, and in particular the tps on deck are far happier.
- 3 Sep 0530 General Quarters, which is ship's routine, carried out. Weather now fine and hot.
- 0900 Padre RADFORD (HQ 9 Aust Div) held a service for Day of Prayer. on fwd weather deck.
- 1600 Dropped anchor at CHIVALRY and certain LOB personnel disembarked, together with five Jeeps, which were taken off in an LCM. Col GARRETT, NGF, who is to act as observer, came aboard. We all watched the first wave of the big mission leaving BUNA as we came in, a magnificent sight with the destroyer escort, LCIs, APDs and LSTs. Good luck !
- 4 Sep 0630 Our little convoy once more puts to sea. The show must already be "on" and everyone is wondering just how things are going. Morale is very high, and all are confident. The weather is very hot and sunny now, and it is hard to find a shady spot on deck. The blokes working in the galley are just drenched in perspiration. Have seen quite a number of our planes overhead. It's a good sight. All crew at "action stations" constantly since leaving BUNA.
- 1355 Some planes sighted very high and right in the sun. They're probably ours. No, they're peeling off. General alarm sounded; all men below decks. All AA opens up, with ship zig-zagging violently. With a shrill whine Aichi 99 dive bombers dive on the convoy with the sun behind them. In the distance two large explosions occur on the water, followed by clouds of black smoke, which appears as though our fighters have got in amongst them. The leading plane is now flattening out at about 300 ft, and you can see the red circles on the wing tips. The bombs are falling, little black ones from each ship as it flattens out. They are not going for our ship but further astern. Four bombs are falling directly down on 473. The first two strike the water very close and the next two hit on the stern, with violent explosion and smoke can now be seen rising from her. Poor blighters - wonder what their casualties are ? The other dive bombers miss the remaining LSTs, but bracket a little sub-chaser. She disappears behind columns of water and spray, but comes through unscathed. Spotters have now reported bombers only about 100 ft off the water on the starboard beam, and all guns open up on them as they approach. One is coming straight for this ship only 50ft above the water. A torpedo seems to float down to the water and hits with a splash. The aircraft seems to rise a



little and is just about on us. We are all expecting to be raked with MG fire, but none comes. The AA fire seems to be hitting her everywhere, and as she roars over the LST the port wing dips slightly, exposing the belly. Every gun is on her and she just banks over on the starboard wing and hits the water a hundred yards off the starboard beam of the ship, falling to pieces. Other Mitsubishis are roaring across the water astern and another one seems to be on fire, losing height. From somewhere in the sky a lone Lightning is screaming down on its tail. Another Mitsubishi falls into the sea with a cloud of spray and a column of black smoke. This torpedo attack only lasted a few minutes, but it seemed like hours. Just at this moment there was a terrific explosion above the roar of the planes and guns, and the LST lurched violently, throwing everyone off their feet. We are hit! The AA had stopped, and everything is very quiet again. LST 473 has stopped, with smoke still drifting up from her stern. Ours has stopped also. We had been hit aft, and wounded are now staggering up from the after hatchways, covered in blood. Our mess orderlies, who had been in the kitchen, came out looking like niggers, and covered with white sticky dough, and such things as beetroot slices plastered about them. The galley was on fire, and two AIF Engrs played hoses on it, very quickly putting it out. Stretcher bearers were being called for to go up on the after gun turret and bring out some shockingly wounded American gunners. An inspection of the crew's quarters aft revealed a most ghastly sight. All lights had been extinguished by the explosion, and in the pitch blackness, with the air like a furnace from escaping steam, the inspection party kept tripping over dead and wounded, who were quickly brought up on deck. On opening the bulkhead door a huge hole was seen in the stern of the ship, with the sea pouring in. The magazine had gone up when the torpedo hit. This deck was a mass of twisted, jagged steel plates, strewn all around with most shockingly mutilated bodies and human remains, a sight which nobody could ever forget. Only one man was brought out alive.

The behaviour of all officers and troops on board, and the whole ship's crew during the action and subsequently, was magnificent. Everyone remained calm, and there was never a shortage of volunteers at any time to go down below, even though it was at first thought the ship was sinking. The officers' quarters and ward room were quickly turned into a hospital, and the work of the ship's M.O. was beyond praise. He worked for hours on end in the sweltering heat, doing amputations, blood transfusions, and operations of all kinds, assisted only by medical orderlies.

Special mention is made of Col H.C. LAWRY who, although he had a fractured rib, worked unceasingly for at least ten hours, tending the wounded and assisting the M.O. with no thought for himself. His devotion to duty was an inspiration to all the men on the craft. § Recomm. for M.I.D.

The ship had only one engine functioning, and both rudders had been carried away, so we continued to go round in circles. The after bulkhead was holding, and we were not taking any more water. 473 was stationary close by, closely watched by two destroyers, which came up about half an hour after the attack. At 1500hrs the remainder of the convoy proceeded on its way.

CASUALTIES were :	Offrs	ORs
Killed	1	1
Missing (bel killed)	-	35
Wounded	1	22
Wounded; not evac.	-	3

Cas among ship's crew were 7 killed (incl 1 offr) and 8 wounded.



4 Sep  
(cont)

Most of the casualties occurred among the 2/4 Ind Coy, who occupied the crew's quarters aft. Pte THOMPSON was reported missing, and it is thought that he went to the 3" gun aft, to assist the ship's gun crew- All this crew were killed. The remaining cas among the Coy - Cpl CLARK, C.V., Ptes MAHER, A.R., SMITH, J.H., LILLEY, J.C.H.W. and CHURCHYARD, J.T. (all wounded) -- were either in the galley or nearby. Pte LILLEY sustained a fractured leg whilst assisting in clearing a damaged lifeboat aft.

2000 Two LSTs returning from RED BEACH join our small circle, and preparations are made to take both the damaged ships in tow. On boarding the new LST, which had drawn alongside, it was like a breath of cool, sweet air, in contrast to the nauseating, pungent smell of powder, blood and ether, which permeated the whole of 471. All tps remained on board the old craft, and hot coffee and food was provided from our rescuer.

5 Sep 0130 Towed into MOROBE, where all stores were transferred to the new ship. Excellent arrangements had been made to receive casualties by 2/3 CCS, and they were quickly taken off the ship to the waiting ambulances. The Sub Area Commandant, Col NORRIS, took over LST 471 after all stores had been transferred, and arrangements made to remove and bury all the dead that afternoon.

0700 Transferring of all stores completed. All tps guided to local staging camp for food and rest, which they needed very badly.

1400 Tps re-embarked on the new LST up nets from LCTs.

1630 Left MOROBE to join convoy outside proceeding to RED BEACH.

6 Sep 0100 Arrived at RED BEACH. Apart from three alerts during this voyage, the trip was uneventful.

0155 Unloading completed. Stores from beach then carried under cover.

0440 Coy bivouacs in nearby area.

0945 Coy moves off for Bn area (vicinity BUSO village)- Arrives 1000 hrs and Coy area allotted.

1200 Japanese bombers over area and dropped bombs. Pet dump on beach hit, and damage to stores. Some cas (US and Aust) reptd.

1400 Jap bombers on further bombing and strafing raid over area. Lieut Ferguson struck above knee by piece of shrapnel, and evacuated 2/8 Fd Amb.

Coy Comds conference- Pl Comds confce.

1545 Warning order for 100 men, unloading party. Coy, less duties, moves out 1615 hrs and engaged throughout night in loading LCVs and ferrying stores to APO beach, returning with wounded.

2020 Plane over area. Bombs heard to fall in direction RED BEACH;

7 Sep 0500 Coy returns from unloading. Heavy and continuous rain throughout night. Coy, having now been 72 hrs without sleep, rest during day.

1600 Party to beach of 50 men - clearing beach of stores.

1800 Balance of Coy arrive at beach and commence loading craft and ferrying stores from dumps to beach. From 0600 continuous fighter patrol over area. No EA activity.



Wed 8 Sep 0500 Barrage heard in direction of LAE. Stand to.  
0900 Sjt CHAMPION to act as CSM, consequent upon WO ii LUFF being warned for OCTU.  
0930 OC to Bn, thence on recce RED BEACH.  
0945 Six u/i planes in formation over area. Later advice suggests they were EA returning from a raid.  
1000 Sig HANDSAKER, plus protection party (Lieut TIPPETT, 1 NCO, 5 ORs from this Coy) moved out to repair 2/13 Bn sig wire.  
1630 Warning order 100 men, 20 to follow, engaged on loading and ferrying stores.  
2000 Single plane overhead. Heard to power dive in direction of beach. No sound of guns or bombs.

Thurs 9 Sep 0130 CSM LUFF (with CSM HOWE, C Coy), moves out for beach on his way to OCTU.  
Number of Airacobras seen. Reported additional protection for beach while petrol landed for air strip.  
1030 OC and Lieut TIPPETT on recce as far as Beach Defence HQ (A Coy)  
1730 Coy engaged loading and ferrying; two LCVs claim signalled in by enemy and mortared. No damage or casualties.  
(NOTE : LCVs went too far towards LAE, and were fired on as warning by 2/28 (mouth of BUSU) to turn them back- I.O.)

Fri 10 Sep 1800 Coy again engaged loading and ferrying stores to G BEACH. Capt CRIST went to G BEACH to co-ordinate unloading.

Sat 11 Sep 1800 70 men to beach. Sent back on hour's notice, as surf too heavy for craft. No further call out.

Sun 12 Sep 1200 LL EA in formation, escorted by Fs, over area. Apparently planes which bombed arty posns (16 killed 30 wounded).  
1400 Four drivers, who were detached on the night of landing to Engineers, reported in, having been engaged on general tpt work in connection with bridge-building.  
1800 90 men for beach on loading and ferrying empty craft to B BEACH. Loaded some for G BEACH, some to D BEACH; Some airbursts over craft; no damage or casualties.

Mon 13 Sep LCTs arrived during night with LOBs. Bn LOBs move into Bn area.  
1800 100 men on loading and ferrying RED BEACH to D BEACH. After unloading LCVs, engaged in ferrying 2/17 Bn across river to D BEACH.



Tues 14 Sep 0900 Warning order for move.  
 LOBs less Lieut LAVAN, Pte DIBDEN (att 26 Bde, 2/48 Bn) rejoin Coy. Sjt POWNCEBY, Ptes WEBECK, WALLACE, WYLLIE, Cpls PARKHILL, ALBERTSON, Ptes JONES, HANSEN, MAVIN, McGRATH.  
 1800 Cpl PARK to 2/4 Fd Amb (?)

Wed 15 Sep 0900 Coy less L/Cpl MILLER, Pte IRELAND, move out on march to BUREP R.  
 1530 Coy reaches APO village and stages.

Thurs 16 Sep Coy again on march up the BUREP R and along jeep track to bridge over BUSU R. Bivouac.  
 Pte LAWLER rejoins Capt CRIST at TIKHERENG.  
 REAR PARTY : Cpl Park, L/Cpl Miller, Pte Ireland brought down gun stores to G BEACH by LCV last night, stayed night TIKHERENG village. Now awaiting orders.

Fri 17 Sep 0800 Pte MALONE, MARDON, FREEMAN evacuated.  
 Coy engaged in carrying stores along right bank BUSU R to 2/24 Bn in fwd posn.  
 Pte SCOTT evac through 2/24 Bn RAP.  
 REAR PARTY. RC Mass 0700 at village by Chap KENNY.  
 Pte IRELAND moves out for RED BEACH to collect jeep.  
 1600 Cpl PARK, L/Cpl MILLER and gun stores to Bn Dump on BUREP R.  
 1800 Pte IRELAND rejoins rear party. Barge in which he travelled to RED BEACH was strafed but no damage or cas.

Sat 18 Sep 1200 Cpl PARK rejoins Coy. L/Cpl MILLER, Pte IRELAND remain at BUREP Dump.  
 Pte BERRY evac.  
 Party of 10 ORs det as escort to native porters carrying to 2/24 Bn.  
 1230 Coy, less det, moves over BUSU R to Bn area 500 yds along jeep track.  
 1600 Warning order that Coy will come under comd 20 BDE as from 19 Sep.  
 Strength 4 x 118 (10 escort 1-3 det)

Sun 19 Sep 0900 OC to Bde HQ  
 1200 Escort party return. Strength 4 x 128 (1-3 det)  
 1700 OC returns - no infm.  
 1900 EA heard overhead. Heard again 2100 hrs - 2 bombs dropped in direction of river.

Mon 20 Sep 0400 Distant bombing heard.  
 1100 Pte FREEMAN returns.  
 1200 Pte BERRY returns.



Tues 21 Sep Own air activity over area throughout day.

1800 Bombing heard in direction of beach. Two flights enemy bombers passed east. Aerial firing heard. Airacobras in pursuit. Results not known.

1900 Ptes BOWDEN, HANDSAKER met two men on jeep track, near Bn HQ, acting suspiciously. Thought by Pte BOWDEN to be Japs or Chinese. One attacked by Pte BOWDEN and beaten with stick. Both men fled towards river, leaving pack containing clothing, bully beef, other food. Alarm raised, but search made without result. Double picquets.

EA over area during night.

Wed 22 Sep Warning order for Bn to move back to east bank of BUSU. Coy no longer under comd 20 Bde.

1200 Order cancelled for time being.  
Capt CRIST, Pte LAWLER return from G BEACH.

1400 Order to move tomorrow. Ten men, i/c Sjt POWNCEBY, move out on way to RED BEACH to check packs, etc.

Thurs 23 Sep 0830 B Coy move out.  
0900 HQ, followed by B2, B3 moves across river by pontoon ferry. Whole of morning occupied. Traffic of jeeps and personnel heavy.  
Coy takes up posn 300 yds downstream from bridge on BUREP side of BUSU under cover of timbered country.

1200 Camp improvement.  
Ptes MALONE, MARDON, SCOTT return.

1900 Warning order - Coy attached 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp.

Fri 24 Sep 0900 Pte SHELTON evac 2/3 Fd Amb.  
OC to 24 Bde HQ for conference. On return, warning that possible early move on exercise in combined ops.

1330 Bn parade, address by C.O. on discipline, pilfering, dress indiscriminate firing, etc.

Sat 25 Sep 0800 Amended list of LOB submitted to Bn - Lieut CANN, Pte BERRY, Sjt POWNCEBY, Ptes HALL, SHELTON, Cpl PARKHILL, Ptes PATERSON, MARDON, Cpl ALBERTSON, Ptes GARD, SKEEN, Lieut LAVAN, Pte DIBDEN (remain with 26 Bde).

1400 LOB list further amended : Cpl WEBB replaces Cpl ALBERTSON.

Sun 26 Sep 0900 Bn church parade. RC parade 2/43 Bn.  
1300 Pack party return.  
1430 Salvaged air mail received.  
1600 Censorship regs authorise mention of sea incident, but NOT effect.



Mon ~~26~~27 Sep 0900 Route march by Coy less HQ, by Pls, through  
 MALAHANG-LAE.  
 1500 Return. Pte DONOHUE (AACC) apptd A/Cpl cook w.e.f.  
 5 Sep.

Tues 28 Sep 1200 Pte SHELTON returns  
 1800 L/Cpl MILLER, Pte IRELAND report in from BUREP dump  
 with guns and stores.

Wed 29 Sep Pls cross BUSU and engage in patrols, junglecraft, etc  
 on far bank.  
 1500 Air mail received.

Thurs 30 Sep 0900 Pls on Pl posns , defensive, on far side of river.  
 HQ on HQ posns.  
 Pte FAINT evac 2/3 Fd Amb.



C COY DIARY

- Thurs 2  
Sep Left MILNE BAY by LST.
- Fri 3 Sep Called BUNA, anchored there overnight. SHEPHERD and COWLEY left there LOB.
- Sat 4 Sep 0700 Left BUNA.  
1400 Heavily bombed and torpedoed, two barges in convoy being damaged. Close shave on our barge.  
2315 Arrived RED BEACH. Personnel dumped gear and prepared to unload LST. Unloading completed in two and a half hours, shortly after 0230.
- Sun 5 Sep Stores at this stage were all dumped on the beach. After a breather, the men moved the stores into dumps, viz Amm., petrol, sups, water, etc. in the bushes. Men then returned to gear for a rest. The Coy then marched up through BUSO 1 village to the coy area, arriving there at 0530 hrs. All were asleep by 0600 hrs.
- 0730 Capt NICHOLAS reported to C.O. at beach, and received instructions to report to Maj KENT on West bank of BUSO R.
- 0930 Coy moved off, at first going one mile along wrong track. Retraced our steps and by 1115 hrs at the appointed place on the west bank of BUSO. The men felt very tired, and several felt the heat. Some of these dropped out, rejoining the Coy two hours later. Lunched there.
- 1400 Moved off on AASC tpt with stores to ALUKI village, where Coy unloaded ord and POL stores into dumps. Camped for the night, getting the first full night's sleep since Friday. Received ration of bully beef, biscuits, tea and sugar.
- Mon 6 Sep 1000 Coy again moved, to APO. Advised by DAQMG and CRE that the road would be through to APO village by 1500 hrs. Coy marched to APO mainly by dead reckoning and compass, and picked up several travellers by the way, including Col GRIMMETT, two Div LOs, all heading in the direction of APO. West of the main river on the track met the DAQMG and another officer, who had just spent two hours in a mangrove swamp. Struck another track which led us to APO village by 1215 hrs. The men stood up to this march very much better than that of the previous day. Stayed in APO till about 1500 hrs, when ordered to report to DAQMG at APO Fishing Village, which Capt NICHOLAS did at 1600 hrs. Camped along shore to east of village.
- C2 Pl immediately began carrying stores to 2/23 Bn, returning to the Fishing Village by 1830 hrs.
- 2200 A mission consisting of about 6 LCVs landed stores and two jeeps. Unloading in torrential rain for about half an hour. Wounded were then evacuated on the barges, the whole work being carried out under appalling conditions. C3 unloaded, and Coy HQ and 6 ORs from C3 moved by LCV to SINGAUA Plantation.
- Tues 7 Sep After some time at sea (nearly 2 hours), owing to the navigator not having been in the area before, the LCV reached SINGAUA beach just behind the 24 Bn. Offloaded stores from 0200 and work on the beach completed by 0530 hrs. Men were quite exhausted.
- 0900 Moved into dispersal area in plantation. Remainder of Coy arrived from APO by 1000 hrs. Coy spent the day resting there.



Tues 7 Sep 1700 WO ii HOWE left for Bn HQ - to return to Mainland for OCTU course.  
(cont)

2100 Mission of barges arrived. Stores offloaded

Wed 8 Sep

Capt NICHOLAS ordered to take Coy HQ and Pl to mouth of the BUREP RIVER. Moved by LCV and LCMs, but again much delay at sea owing to navigators not knowing coast. and fearing reefs. Offloaded barges by 0500 hrs (reached beach 0230 hrs) Coy camped on bank of BUREP till 0900, when Capt NICHOLAS instructed to move up to TIKHERENG village.

1030 Arrived TIKHERENG. Rested for day. Rejoined by Cl Pl, which we had left at BUSO 1, at 1300 hrs. C2 had rejoined Coy earlier in morning. Ptes NICHOLSON and Cpl BOURKE evacuated.

At night Coy HQ, Cl and C3 moved down the track to the beach to unload stores. Two quite large missions of mixed stores, mainly engineering, POL, amm and sups.

Strength 4 x 126.

Visit by C.O., RMO, Cpl OAKES, who came overland from BUSO and returned on barges.

Thurs 9  
Sep

Continued unloading until daylight. Received tobacco issue. C2, plus 4 of Coy HQ, sent fwd to prepare a jeep track to the river. Arrived back in camp approx 1630 hrs. Kitchen now set up.

2145 The Coy were moving down in single file, under Lieut BRERETON, to the beach. When about 200 yds from the mouth of the river, A/WO ii FORREST and Lieut EWING, who were following Mr BRERETON, were shot. Both men were wounded in the abdomen. They were taken to an ADS less than 200 yds away, where Lieut EWING, who appeared in lower condition, was given 1000ccs of serum. Both were evacuated by LCM at 2230 hrs to the 2/3 CCS at RED BEACH. Both wounds proved fatal. Subsequent inquiries established that the shots were fired by P.I.B. sentries.

2200 First wave of barges. S/Sjt WOODWARD, L/Cpl DONNELLY, Cpl REDFERN, Ptes EDGAR, CLAY, WILTON rejoined Coy and brought up bedrolls, which were left at SINGAUA.

Men have built very good shelters in village, with the assistance of ANGAU natives.

Comparatively easy night unloading, assistance being given by Arty personnel in getting off arty stores, and Engr personnel in unloading engr stores.

Fri 10  
Sep

Strength, 3 x 125. plus 16 D Coy

Finished unloading after daylight and arrived back in camp approx 0645 hrs.

Quiet day. Men have spent last two nights unloading barges, and each night there have been two large missions. Yesterday morning the beach was cleared at 0555 hrs and this morning at 0625 hrs. The men are tired, but working well and cheerful.

QX 5942 Sjt PATERSON, C.F., to be CSM, replacing the late Sjt FORREST, who died this morning. Promotion to A/WOii to date w.e.f. 8 Sep 43.



Sat 11 Sep

Two waves again during night, first approx 2100 hrs and  
y second 0415 hrs. Enemy shelling and air bursts over area  
while first wave was being unloaded. Mostly guns and  
engineer stores. Arrived back 0530 hrs, rested all day.

Strength, 3 x 125.

Night off.

Sun 12 Sep

Strength, 3 x 125. C1 Pl now weak, with Sjts Patterson and Pearce, Cpls Leiper and Bolton carrying on. Anticipated Coy will move to west bank of BUSU tomorrow or Tuesday.

LAE heavily bombed and shelled during morning.

11 EA bombed arty posns north of us about noon.

Cpl BOLTON took carrying party approx 70 boys fwd with stores.

XSIXBYEYKYOKEEYWTXGOW MAYK.

Mon 13 Sep 1340 Padre SEATREE conducted a service in TIKHERENG village.  
Well attended voluntarily. *Sir Ewing died yesterday.*

Cigarettes, soap, etc arrived last night; most welcome.

Good night's work on beach last night, shifting over 100 tons of material, mainly arty and engr stores. Capt CRIST arrived to join Beach Staff.

Pte TYLER evac to unit RAP with sore back, and Pte McKew  
PUO, both yesterday. Pte NICHOLSON rejoined Coy.

Cpl OAKES visited us with Coy mail from RED BEACH.

Coy to move tomorrow morning to D BEACH (west bank of BUSU).

Tues 14 Sep 0400 C.O., Adjt.. RMO arrived on second wave. Spent night with us and had breakfast.

Coy moves along coast to west bank of BUSU. Majority in new area (ref 741402 ) by 1500 hrs. Night's work was not heavy, and all ranks in bed by 0100 hrs.

Padre JEAGER arrived on second mission.

Cpl BOLTON evac as PUO.

Enemy arty shelled area , mainly with air burst, for some time. 75mm and 105mm. No casualties, but very noisy and unpleasantly close. Men behaved well. Japs also shelled an area 300 yds to sea consistently, with no harm to anyone.

Wed 15 Sep

Strength, 4 x 126.

1310 At ref 729394 C2 Pl fired three belts per gun normal rate at enemy barge, bearing from guns of 223 (mag), at 2,100 yds range. Bullets fell on, around and all over target. Later learned that barge sank within one hour. Assumed to have been used by the enemy as an OP.

More enemy shelling on D BEACH this morning, but again a waste of amm.

Our planes active all day, and have dropped heavy ones on LAE area - MALAHANG.

Some unloading at night.

Thurs 16 Sep

Padre JEAGERS, who arrived about midnight on Tuesday has left us in search of D Coy, after spending yesterday and today doing nothing.

Quiet day and night.



Fri 17 Sep

Pte DALY evac as PUO. Strength now 4 x 125.

Coy still in area of West BUSU, and awaiting further news. All anxious to see LAE. Coy have worked well last two nights and today, and are fit and well.

Entire Bn mail has just arrived, and we are sorting our own.

Sat 18 - Mon  
20Sep

Coy resting in present area. Since leaving RED BEACH Coy has been free of air raids The men have got on well with the Americans of ESB, and have played very well as regards pilfering, which has been practically non-existent.

Sjt LORD (SB Sjt) has at all times done a very good job with the Coy Aid Post, treating many people he need not have done.

Orders received on night 17/18 Sep for C Coy to come under comd Lt-Col AINSLIE (2/48 Bn) for loading and unloading LSTs for operation DIMINISH. During afternoon of 18 Sep this order changed, C Coy coming under comd 20 Bde, for use operationally in DIMINISH. Capt NICHOLAS, whp had reported to Brig WHITEHEAD before lunch, reported to 20 Bde HQ, on BUREP R, by 1830 hrs. Coy remains in present area.

Capt NICHOLAS reported to Brig WINDEYER 0800 hrs 19 Sep, and to attend conference at 1530 hrs.

At conference plan for DIMINISH discussed. After landing, C Coy to unload all stores and go into beach defence role. Also help to unload stores on LSTs coming in at H plus 108. Part of Coy to occupy high ground after it taken by B Coy 2/17, to north of SONG R.

Mon 20 Sep

QX 1613 Sjt RAMSAY (Pl Sjt C2 Pl ) promoted A/WO ii vice Sjt FORREST (decd) as CSM. L/Cpl E BRANDRICK, MM, prom A/Sjt, as Pl Sjt C2 Pl. Sjt KELLY, V., refused post, remaining as Sec Sjt.

Coy still on west bank BUSU, waiting for LCMs to cross.

Tues 21 Sep

Coy moving to G BEACH from D BEACH.

1430 Arrived G BEACH, assembled at Bn dump area. Conference of offrs and orders for DIMINISH.

Capt NICHOLAS, Sjts SHEPHERD and KELLY, Ptes FOLEY and PETERS to travel on APD 10. C2 and 11 of C HQ personnel on LCI 27 (Lieut ARMSTRONG OC Tps). C3 Pl less 5, on LCI 26 C1 and remainder of HQ and C3 on LST with Lieut BRERETON in charge.

Fwd recce party moved to assembly area. Capt NICHOLAS and party moved with them and embarked on LCV 1900 hrs. Moved out onto APD and embarked approx 1930 hrs. Tps settled in compartments by 2010 hrs. On board offrs and men given a very good evening meal, and also issued with 2 pkts of cigarettes, 1 cake soap and one box of matches.

Wed



Wed 22 Sep 0245 Reveille. 0300 hrs good breakfast ; 0340 hrs, kit put on.

0400 Nos 3 and 4 boats moved to aft, starboard and port sides, of APD. Nos 1 and 2 moved up at 0415 hrs. Then LCVs lowered over side. Men quickly settled. Voyage to this time uneventful.

0434 Naval bombardment, ceasing 0440 hrs. LCVs approaching shore, facing very slight SA fire. First wave of LCVs landed well south of SCARLET BEACH, on coral near mouth of SIKI R. As B Coy 2/17 supposed to be rt fwd Coy, and to land at mouth of SONG R, we then proceeded along coast to where we should have landed. At 638678 held up by LMG fire from neighbouring scrub. Two secs silenced guns. Pte PETERS applied first aid to one of our wounded. By this time wave two of LCVs landed, most southerly craft at 640679 (1" map). Heavier enemy LMG fire met. B Coy 2/17 still moving north around coast. At this stage, with three waves each beaching on different beaches, there was some little confusion and mix-up among our troops. With daylight, the posn clarified. We were still proceeding north, and once on to SCARLET BEACH moved rapidly to the mouth of the SONG R. Crossed on two logs, and moved further around the coast. Struck into jungle along coast. Followed track northwards for about 500 yds, then turned at right angles and went due West. Struck a kunai patch at approx 642694. Jungle country, rough and precipitous. At 0930 hrs reached ref at kunai grass. Capt NICHOLAS, Pte FOLEY and Sjt KELLY, with No 2 Sec C1 Pl patrolled northward up through high ground and kunai grass to 641702. This hill had a commanding view of SATELBERG, FINSCHHAFEN and the general area south, with a great command of SCARLET BEACH. Then patrolled on to higher ground in the north. Moved east out to kunai and viewed the country generally. Found to be rough and rugged and useless for MMGs. However, I considered that I could take over high ground from B Coy, 2/17 and hold the flank. C2 placed on high ground, at the top of kunai, approx 641701. C3 also posted.

1230 Pls in posn, B Coy 2/17 having moved out 1130 hrs to rejoin their Bn. C1 moved out to ref ? , with Coy HQ situate on south bank of R SONG, approx 640688. At 1600 hrs Tka placed under comd, MMGs sited astride the coastal trk at approx 661702. PIB (fwd recce and sp ) , camped right across track at 643690. Capt NICHOLAS now considered the right flank well held, and impassable to any large party of x troops, the fire power from automatic weapons being very strong.

One sec of VMGs was withdrawn from C2 and replaced by two Brens, Two VMGs sited at Coy HQ area to fire on north bank of SONG approx 634693. C2 and C3 had moved in rear of HQ C Coy 2/17 until put into posn. Advance was slow, and the carrying of loads not too great a burden on the men.

On the first night the men were very tired. There had been no casualties, and although not very happy, they were resigned to their task

Thurs 23  
Sep

PIB patrol north to ARNDT, looking in at houses shown at ~~XXXX~~ 6533, 6534, and to investigate track leading west from 646730. No sign of any recent habitation at ARNDT PT or houses. Quite recent signs at BONGA. Track shown leading west found not to exist.



C Coy (cont)

Thurs 23 Sep 1400 FOO 12 Fd Regt estab HQ with C2. Excellent observation.  
(cont) Preparing DF task north of C3 and C2 with 25-pdr  
air burst.

Friday  
24 Sep

PIB moved south HELDSBACH PLTN

On SCARLET BEACH there were numerous strong posts, sited very badly. They were recently built, but very poor arcs of fire. Crawl trenches had recently been dug. The defences had not been properly thought out, or the beach could have been a slaughter-house. SCARLET BEACH itself is an excellent beach, but most of the early waves landed on very rough beaches. The surrounding country is good for road-making. Bulldozers soon made their way through. Definitely better than RED BEACH; The landing was opposed, but not strongly. Over D Day and D plus one good fighter protection.

Saturday  
25 Sep

Strength, 6 x 128. Grieve and Elliott evacuated.

Quiet day. Capt NICHOLAS and party patrolled to BONGA village. Nothing to report.

Able to receive war news from Arty OP.

Approx 2030 hrs barge reported off coast travelling in southerly direction. Appeared to land off airstrip. Hy bombing raids during morning. Pte PEARCE slightly wounded ; remaining on duty.

Issue of canteen stores, each man receiving 1 tin of tobacco, 2 pkts cigarettes, 1 pkt papers, 1 chocolate, one-third pkt biscuits, and tin fruit.

Quiet night. Arty still pounding away.

Sunday  
26 Sep

Strength, 6 x 127. Pte CASHEL evac with dysentery.

Bombing raids during morning- a long way from posn. More enemy barges travelling north, well out. Otherwise all quiet.



Monday  
27 Sep

Strength 6 x 127.

Pte BODLEY accidentally wounded in foot by bullet from own rifle. Evac to CCS. Inquiry made.

Patrol up SONG R by Lieut GEE and party. Written report obtained.

Patrol Capt NICHOLAS and party towards BONGA, following track to west. On return party bombed by 9 EA. Dim view taken, as no target in area.

Ptes CASHEL and ELLIOTT returned from CCS.

Quiet night. Received some nice fish from AA, which greatly appreciated.

Tuesday  
28 Sep

Strength, 6 x 128.

C1 Sec & Pl HQ moved out along BONGA track to cover it. Section settled in by 0900 hrs at 695657.

Pte GRIEVE returned from CCS

Visit from Major STEKMAN (2/3 Pnr Bn)

Attacks on 2/17 Bn Coy astride SATELBERG track. Repulsed, with losses to enemy.

Heavy air raids on FINSCHHAFEN, one by Mitchells.

Fairly quiet day, and no enemy raids.

Wednesday  
29 Sep

Strength, 6 x 129.

Raid by lone enemy bomber, vicinity Coy HQ.

Quiet day.

Thursday  
30 Sep

Strength, 6 x 127

EDWARDS and WARD, L evacuated (? malaria)

Coy HQ and C13 moved fwd to posn fwd of Bde HQ (photomap 146155). C1 and C2 remaining in posn on SONG R.

Settled in new location by 1615 hrs.

Mail day.



2/2 Aust MG Bn  
WARDIARY  
SEPTEMBER 1943

D COY DIARY

Thurs 2      Embarked on LST 473 at MILNE BAY. Sailed 1400 hrs from  
Sep      MILNE BAY in company with five other LSTs.

Fri 3      Anchored BUNA approx 1630 and stayed night.

Sat 4      0630 Left BUNA for RED BEACH.  
1350      Convoy attacked by enemy bombers and aerial torpedoes.  
Two direct hits scored on our LST, one by a HE bomb which  
exploded on the bridge, causing most of the casualties,  
and the other by an armour-piercing bomb which penetrated  
through the bridge and tank deck and exploded near the  
propellers shafts, completely disabling the LST. Total  
number of casualties in the Coy was 22, of whom 14 were  
evacuated off the LST on to a destroyer. We then remained  
where we were, drifting until nightfall, when another LST  
took us in tow to MOROBE.

Sun 5      0400 Arrived MOROBE. Anchored in harbour until approx 0930 hrs.  
Craft beached at approx 1000 hrs and Coy proceeded to  
off-load stores and vehs, and re-load into LST 454, which  
had previously taken us in tow. This was completed by 1145  
hrs. Lunch at MOROBE  
1300      Re-embarked on LST 454 and moved out into harbour. Sailed  
from MOROBE at approx 1600 hrs, with B Coy on another LST.  
We joined convoy of another 5 LSTs proceeding from BUNA to  
RED BEACH, at approx 1700 hrs.

Mon 6      0100 Arrived RED BEACH. Disembarked and dumped personal gear. Coy  
then proceeded to unload stores, which was hampered  
considerably by vehs and stores on the beach. Unloading  
was completed at 0415 hrs  
0430      Coy proceeded through BUSO village, due north of RED BEACH  
and rested for an hour and a half, before moving into Coy  
area at approx 0925400. There were two raids on the Beach  
and village area, one in the morning and one in the afternoon,  
but no casualties were caused in the Coy, apart from Lieut  
MOULDER, who received a slight scratch from a splinter.  
There was a further raid at night, down in the Beach area.  
One OR evacuated.

Tues 7      0815 Coy left bivouac area to move fwd on carrying job.  
1030      Arrived ALUKI village (HQ 9 Aust Div)  
1630      Arrived APO village, where we stayed the night. Thick mud  
and much water encountered during march, and going very  
heavy.

Wed 8      Moved ~~from~~ <sup>on to</sup> Copra Shed at SINGAUA Pltn this morning, and had  
lunch there. One bombing raid during the morning. During  
afternoon Coy carried stores from APO fishing village to



Copra Shed dump. Bivouaced for night at shed.  
One OR evacuated sick.

Thurs 9

Moved from Copra Shed to Rear 26 Bde HQ 751478, where we arrived at 1100 hrs. During move up one Jap encountered and shot by Lieut MOULDER, apparently wounding him as he immediately blew himself up with a grenade. Lieut CAMERON contacted Brig WHITEHEAD during the afternoon to find out what job he wanted the Coy to do.

Fri 10 Sep

25 men from D1 Pl, 22 from D3, plus 10 from D2 sent out to carry 400 rations from 731473 (jeephead) to 2/4 Aust Indep Coy at 700510. This party left at 0600 hrs and returned approx 1600 hrs. Remainder of Coy sent at approx 1030 hrs to assist in getting Engr stores to BUSU RIVER at 711471.

Sat 11 Sep

Number One gunners rejoined Coy this afternoon. They had been left behind when Coy moved from RED BEACH area on 7 Sep to check and clean the guns. Gun stores are now located at TIKHERENG village, approx 793438 in charge of Tech Storeman and 3 ORs.

Coy remained in same location, and carried stores to 2/48 Bn at 730475. Three personnel carried stores to 2/4 Indep Coy and stayed the night.

Sun 12 Sep

Coy ceased to be under comd 26 Inf Bde and reverted to comd DAQMG. Left 26 Bde area for TIKHERENG. Pte SHORT rejoined unit.

1200 11 EA bombed BUREP R area (guns) but no bomb fell within 800 yds of Coy area.

2000 Received instructions to move back to Rear HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde at 0900 tomorrow.

Mon 13 Sep 0900

Coy moved complete with gun stores by tpt from TIKHERENG to Rear HQ 26 Bde, approx 752470, and spent remainder of day improving jeep track to BUSU R. Lieut MOULDER and Pte MILES det to 2/23 Bn.

Tues 14 Sep 0630

Coy received instns to move, complete with stores, to area of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn at 713463. Personnel started to move 0715 hrs. Stores to follow later by jeep approx 0900.

0930 Arrived 24 Bn area, where much small arms, arty and mortar fire going on. The enemy was using mainly mortars. No casualties. 2/24 Bn had got two Coys across river during the previous night, but remainder of Bn still in our area.

1830 Remainder of Bn commenced to cross river, followed by 2/48 and 2/23 Bns.

Pte Mathers evac, Ptes Porter, Ferris and Collier rejoined.

Wed 15 Sep 0600

Owing to narrow bridge and difficulty of the crossing, this not completed till now.



Wed 15 (cont) This Coy had received instns to move rations and amn across the river immediately following the last Bn. At 0515 hrs Lieut CAMERON with 3 others moved across the river to recce a dump areas on the far bank. Coy started carrying stores at approx 0600 hrs, and continued throughout the day.

1100 26 Bde instructed that we were responsible for defence of the bridgehead and dump areas on both banks of the river, with Lieut CAMERON responsible for co-ordination of defence of all troops in the immediate vicinity. One NCO and 6 men from D2 Pl left to guard dump on east bank, one Sec D" left to guard bridge on west bank of river, approx 710461. Remainder of Coy moved and disposed beside Rear Bde at 706463. Adequate defence of bridgehead was impracticable, so the force was concentrated along the south edge of kunai in the area, with the exception of the two parties detached, as above. Pte HOWE evac.

Thurs 16  
Sep Coy continued shifting stores across the river. LOBs returned - 4 x 8. Nine C Coy LOBs att. Pte MORGAN evac.

Fri 17 Coy assisted to carry stores across river. Pte HILTON E evac.

Sat 18 Sep D1 and D2 Pls proceeded to clear tracks for jeeps from present location up west bank of river to Kunda Br area, with view to supplying 2/24 Bn by jeeps instead of porters. No 3 Pl sent ahead to recce track. The track was found passable as far as north end of kunai, ref 697506.

Sun 19 Sep Party of 10 men from D3 went up to extend jeep track beyond north end of kunai. Lieut MOULDER, Pte MILES rejoined unit ex 2/23 Bn.

Mon 20 Sep Whole Coy went up to continue job of extending jeep track, and by afternoon had the track as far as 697515. The track could not be extended further without Engr assistance, and it was decided to make the jeep-head at this point.

Tues 21 Sep Washing and cleaning up of area.

Wed 22 Sep Capt WRAGGE crossed to east bank of BUSU R to recce new area for Coy at 716457.

Thurs 23 Sep Coy started to move at 0730 hrs. Arrived new area approx 0800 hrs and proceeded to establish shelters, kitcehn, etc.

DE Fri 24 Continuation of camp improvements. C.O's parade at 1330 hrs.

Sat 25 Sep Continuation of camp improvements.



Sun 26 Sep	Church parades at 0900
Mon 27 Sep	Cleaning and checking of gun stores, and inspection of arms, etc.
Tues 28 Sep	Coy went on route march to LAE. Had lunch and returned in afternoon.
Wed 29 Sep	Capt WRAGGE reced BUSU to find suitable place put bridge across. Coy engaged in washing, cleaning guns, etc.
Thurs 30 Sep	¶ Half the Coy went down to G BEACH to Bn pack store, to go through packs and get anything required out of them. Remainder of Coy proceeded to bridge BUSU R.



COMMANDING OFFICER'S SUMMARYAUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1943August

After some four months of fairly intensive jungle trg, the Division is again moving into an operational area, and much to our pleasure is taking with them our Battalion in support. This is a lucky break, as several other Corps units, including the Div Cavm and two regiments of Arty, are being left behind.

The move from the Mainland to NEW GUINEA was uneventful, though enlightening as to the American methods of transporting troops and materiel. A conservative estimate of 25% of stores carried on troopships was either lost or badly damaged in transit.

Our sojourn in MILNE BAY was quite pleasant. The area seemed to be comparatively free from malaria, and useful trg was put in, in preparation for the forthcoming offensive.

September

The initial landing of the Division at RED BEACH on 4 Sep was unopposed by land forces, and only 3 EA managed to get through our air cover to attack the convoy just before beaching. Landing wave No 5, of 2 LCIs, was put out of action, and a fairly high percentage of casualties sustained.

The Battalion, moving on LSTs which were to land that night, were dive-bombed and torpedo-bombed during the day. Two LSTs were damaged. The Bn suffered some casualties, details of which are contained in the War Diary.

The weather during the first few days of the LAE operations was extraordinarily good, and enabled our fwd tps to make good progress. Later, when the rain did come, movement was considerably restricted, and one realised what might have happened had we had wet weather in the initial stages.

This Battalion was mainly on "white boonging", unloading supply ships and assisting to maintain forward Bdes. This work, although menial, was carried out very thoroughly and efficiently, and earned the praise of Divisional authorities.

On the conclusion of the active LAE operations, the Bn, with the exception of C Coy, concentrated on the upper BUSU RIVER, where a short period of training was enjoyed. Lessons learned earlier in the month were applied by Coys.

Late in the month C Coy left with 20 Bde for the DIMINISH operation, this time in an operational role, though few opportunities to employ the Vickers presented themselves.

Morale of the unit as a whole has been good, despite the type of work on which it has been employed, but comforts have been in extremely short supply, notably tobacco and cigarettes.



SUMMARY OF MOVES AND OPERATIONSSEPTEMBER, 1943Move to Far Shore

The Bn embarked at MILNE BAY on 2 Sep 43 on 5 of 6 LSTs forming Landing Group Two, due to reach RED BEACH at approx 2300 hrs night D Day/D plus 1 (4/5 Sep).

On Saturday 4 Sep our convoy was attacked at approx 1355 hrs, when well off MOROBE, by 4 VAL dive-bombers, which scored two hits on the LST containing D Coy. One HE bomb exploded near the bridge, causing casualties, while an AP bomb penetrated to the propellor-shafts before exploding, and disabled the LST. D Coy suffered 23 casualties, all wounded, of whom 7 remained on duty. Immediately afterwards a force of approximately 9 torpedo bombers attacked, flying 50/100 ft off the water. Concentrated AA fire from Bofors, 20mm and .5 MGs was brought to bear, and three enemy aircraft crashed into the sea. Our fighters had intercepted, and probably were responsible for one. LST 141, containing our B Coy, was torpedoed on the stern, and the explosion wrecked the after end of the craft. Of 63 casualties, 37 were killed or missing believed killed, and 26 wounded, of whom 3 remained on duty. B Coy suffered 6 casualties, NX27420 Pte THOMPSON, S.F., being killed and 5 others wounded.

B and D Coys were taken to MOROBE, where they transhipped and then joined the convoy of Landing Group 3, which arrived on night D plus 1/D plus 2 (5/6 Sep).

The remaining 4 LSTs reached RED BEACH at 2320 hrs 4 Sep and by 0330 hrs had been unloaded and were off the beach. Working parties from the Bn spent next day moving stores from the beach to dumps further inland.

Bn HQ was established at 925399, with HQ Coy alongside and C Coy temporarily at 924395. Major P.B. GREEN (OC A Coy) was in charge of all RED BEACH defences, with A Coy occupying defensive posns along the beach area. TKA and AA guns were under command.

C Coy moved to ALUKI on Sunday 5 Sep on AASC tpt, unloading Ord and POL stores there. Next day they moved to APO fishing village, where C2 Pl carried stores to 2/23 Bn. That night they unloaded a mission of 6 LCVs at the beach in torrential rain, and carried wounded to barges for evacuation. Portion of C Coy off-loaded stores from LCVs at SINGAU PLTN on the night 6/7 Sep, and the whole Coy was in pltn area by 1000 hrs 7 Sep. That night Coy HQ and C3 proceeded to the mouth of the BUREP R (G BEACH) on LCVs, and unloaded stores there. Remainder of the Coy later joined them at TIKHERENG village, and until 13 Sep personnel were employed unloading two nightly missions of barges from RED BEACH. On one night (12/13 Sep) 100 tons of stores were moved off the beach.

At approx 2100 hrs on 9 Sep, C Coy was moving down the jungle track from TIKHERENG to the mouth of the BUREP R. About 200 yds from the mouth, shots were fired into the party, and Lieut T McD EWING and A/WOii N. FORREST were fatally wounded, the latter dying at 2/3 CCS next day and Lieut EWING on Sunday 12 Sep. Investigation of the shooting placed the blame on P.I.B. personnel.

On Tuesday 14 Sep C Coy moved along the coast to the west bank of the BUSU R at 741402, where D BEACH was established. There they continued the work of unloading stores from barges and carrying to dumps until 18 Sep, when they rested in the area.

B and D Coys arrived RED BEACH at 0100 hrs 6 Sep, and after unloading their craft moved into the area immediately north of Bn HQ.

D Coy moved out from the BUSU area on 7 Sep, and reached APO for the night. Next day they moved on to the copra shed at SINGAU PLTN, and carried stores from APO beach to the dumps at copra shed. On the morning of 9 Sep the Coy moved to Rear HQ 26 Bde at 751478, and were employed on 10 and 11 Sep to carry stores to 26 Bde units from the jeephead at 731473.



B Coy, during this time, were employed loading stores on barges at RED BEACH, with some personnel accompanying them to G BEACH and later to D BEACH. HQ Coy were also used as loading parties and carriers.

D Coy moved back under comd 26 Bde from TIKHERENG to 752470 on 13 Sep, and spent the remainder of the day working on the jeep track through to the Busu River. Next day the Coy moved to 2/24 Bn area on the east bank of the BUSU, where two Coys were across the river, and the remainder of the Bde waiting to cross. That night all the Bde crossed the river, and at 0600 hrs 15 Sep D Coy moved across in the wake of the infantry, carrying stores, building dumps, and providing local protection for the bridgehead. They continued in this role until Friday 17 Sep.

On 15 Sep B Coy moved out of BUSO area, on the march to the BUREP R, and the same day the Bn received a warning order to move to the upper BUSU area, near the 26 Bde bridgehead. B Coy reached the BUREP that night, and next morning marched up the BUREP to the jeephead on the BUSU 7146.

BnHQ, HQ Coy and A Coy meanwhile had moved from the BUSO to APO fishing village on Thursday 16 Sep, learning during the afternoon that LAE had fallen. They reached the jeep track turn-off on the BUREP for the next night, and on Saturday 18 Sep moved across the BUSU to establish a Bn area on the west bank, near a native village.

B Coy, who on 17 Sep had carried stores up the BUSU to 2/4 Indep Coy, and D Coy, were also in the area. C Coy remained at D BEACH.

During the remainder of the month, A and D Coys were employed in building and improving the jeeptrack to 697515, from whence native carriers, escorted by personnel of this unit, carried stores to 2/24 Bn and 2/4 Indep Coy. On 21 Sep there was a reallocation of area by 9 Aust Div, and as a result the Bn moved back across the BUSU to the southern half of square 7146 (1/25,000) on 23 Sep.

C Coy, on 19 Sep, were placed under comd 20 Aust Inf Bde for DIMINISH operation, and on the evening of 21 Sep embarked at G BEACH on LCIs and APDs. The landing was effected successfully at DIMINISH early on 22 Sep, and C Coy moved north of the SONG R onto a high feature at 641702, with a commanding view. The Coy was posted to hold the right flank of the Bde.

Capt NICHOLAS took patrols northward towards BONGA on the following five days. C1 were sited at 695657 to cover the BONGA track, while on 30 Sep Coy HQ and C3 moved south towards the BUMI R.

*Edmund Dukes, Cpl*  
*for Lieut*  
*IO, R/R Aust MG Bn*



SEPTEMBER '43

APPX

"A"

OPERATIONAL



9 AUST DIV OPERATION ORDER NO 1

Copy No 7

25 Aug 43

Ref Maps : 1:63,360 APPARITION - BINOCULAR Series,  
Air Photo-Trace dated 22 Jul 43,  
Air Photo Trace issued as Appx D to  
9 Aust Div Maintenance Project.

INFORMATION

1. Enemy

9 Aust Div Special POSTERN Intelligence Summary already issued.

2. Topographical

9 Aust Div Special POSTERN Intelligence Summary already issued.

3. Own Troops

1 Aust Corps supported by 5 AF and US Task Force 76 is to seize the area BINOCULAR - APPARITION with a view to establishing airfield facilities therein, and to establishing BINOCULAR as a base.

4. Operations are to be carried out in two parts :-

(a) Overwater operation - Capture of BINOCULAR by 9 Aust Div and attached troops.

(b) Overland operation - In which 7 Aust Div with attached troops is to establish itself in EXCHEQUER by overland and airborne operation.

5. Role of 7 Aust Div

7 Aust Div is to seize APPARITION and then assist 9 Aust Div in the capture of BINOCULAR by :-

(a) Preventing enemy overland reinforcement of BINOCULAR.

(b) When size of force concentrated at APPARITION permits - carrying out of future operations against BINOCULAR in conjunction with 9 Aust Div.

6. Boundary between 7 and 9 Aust Divs, to define areas of approach to BINOCULAR -

track junction 691 415, thence track NW to village 60 53 - KNOLL 55 58.

7. Forecast of Enemy Action

(a) Land - See 9 Aust Div Special POSTERN Intelligence Summary No 1, paras 2 and 3.

(b) Sea - It is expected that the enemy will react violently to our operations, and that he may follow his custom of bringing warships by night to bombard the beach area for a short time and then to make off before being intercepted. The beach should therefore be kept as clear of stores or other distinguishing marks or lights as is possible. Night and day lookout will be necessary.

(c) Air - Some enemy bombing and strafing may be expected both by day and night, possibly in strength. Aircraft observation and detection, and co-ordinated air defence of the beaches and beachheads and maintenance area will therefore be of great importance.



7. Forecast of Enemy Action (Continued)

- (d) Amphibious - It is not considered likely that the enemy can put on an impromptu amphibious operation against us. The enemy is known to have some barges and it may be expected that he will use these craft to transport small forces and supplies to tactical positions to interfere with our operations and possibly to attack our craft, and the southern flanks of our advancing forces with MGs or 37 mm guns. It will therefore be necessary for 9 Aust Div troops along the coast to have adequate beach defence (MGs and 2 prs suggested).

8. Additional Troops with 9 Aust Div

- (a) Under command :

Initially - see Order of Battle, Appx B attached,  
and in addition

on landing - 532 Group, 2 ESB, comprising 532 Shore Bn  
2 ESB, and attached troops and craft, listed  
in Appx J.

- (b) In support, for the movement of troops and support of  
landing - CTF 76.

INTENTION

9. 9 Aust Div and attached troops will :

- (a) capture YELLOW BEACH R9862 3979 - R9766 3980 and RED BEACH  
R9350 3955 - R9255 3955 at H Hour on D Day, and  
(b) secure a covering position for and establish a beach  
maintenance area at RED BEACH

with a view to simultaneous development and protection of the  
beachhead and the earliest possible commencement of a rapid advance  
towards BINOCULAR.

METHOD

10. Landing operations will be carried out in four phases :-

Phase 1 - The initial landing at H Hour on D Day by Landing  
Group One comprising part of -

HQ 9 Aust Div  
Div troops  
20 and 26 Aust Inf Bdes

and by 532 Group 2 ESB.

Phase 2 - The landing on night D/D plus 1 by Landing Group  
Two comprising additional troops of -

HQ 9 Aust Div  
Div troops  
20 and 26 Aust Inf Bdes.

Phase 3 - The landing on Night D plus 1/D plus 2 by Landing  
Group Three, comprising 24 Aust Inf Bde and  
additional div troops.

Phase 4 - The landing of remaining div troops according to  
tactical situation.



PHASE I

11. Landing Group One

Composition - see Appx F

Landing Table - see Appx E.

12. Forward Troops

(a) 20 Aust Inf Bde, with under command :

E Tp 2/12 Aust Fd Regt

One sec 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt

2/23 Aust Inf Bn - on landing

1 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy

and in support :-

2/12 Aust Fd Regt (less one bty and dets)

12 Aust Lt AA Bty

2/3 Aust Fd Coy

2/8 Aust Fd Amb

will :

at YELLOW BEACH -

immediately seize the beach and jungle fringing it,  
capture first objective,

exploit to Blue Line shown in trace, Appx A, and

place standing patrols on tracks leading into the  
area from the east and north; and

at RED BEACH -

immediately seize the beach and jungle fringing  
it, and

capture first, second and third objectives.

(b) Objectives are shown in trace, Appx A.

(c) Allotment to beaches

YELLOW BEACH - 2/13 Aust Inf Bn, with under command :-

E Tp 2/12 Aust Fd Regt

One sec 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt

and in support

2 Pl 2/3 Aust Fd Coy.

RED BEACH - 20 Aust Inf Bde and attached troops less  
detachment at YELLOW BEACH.

13. H Hour, which will be notified later, will be the time the leading  
craft hit the beach.

14. D Day, will be notified later.

15. Postponement of D Day - see Appx O attached.

16. Support of the landing will be by :

(a) Preliminary naval bombardment, controlled through CRA 9 Aust Div.



16. Support of the landing will be by (continued)

(b) Aircraft controlled through HQ Ship being in the air at call to lay smoke. Probable targets :-

- (i) Promontory R999 386.
- (ii) Promontory BULU PLANTATION R965 394.
- (iii) Small cape R938 395.
- (iv) Mouth of BUSO RIVER R91 39.

(c) Small arms support from LCP (R) and LCI as arranged by 20 Aust Inf Bde.

(d) Close Support by Landing Craft Support :

YELLOW BEACH

One LCS in support of 2/13 Aust Inf Bn from eastern flank initially.

RED BEACH

One LCS in support of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn from eastern flank.

One LCS in support 2/17 Aust Inf Bn from western flank.

LCS will approach the beaches with the assault craft from APDs and give close support on the flanks of the landing places by observation. From H Hour until H plus 92 mins LCS will support the flanks at request of bn comds.

In each LCS fire will be directed by an officer appointed by 20 Aust Inf Bde.

17. 20 Aust Inf Bde on capture of third objective will -

(a) be responsible for all measures for the protection of the beachhead including beach maintenance area and where necessary will assume operational command of all troops in that area;

(b) be prepared to develop the beachhead protective dispositions by :

- (i) holding coastal track east of YELLOW BEACH,
- (ii) reconnoitring and blocking tracks leading into beach-head from the north,
- (iii) forming bridgeheads across R BUSO near the coast and near the crossing at 93 46.

18. Location of Beach Maintenance Area is shown in trace, Appx G.

19. Area of ESB Beach Responsibility - see attached trace, Appx G.

20. Alternative Plan

If for any reason it is decided to establish the beach maintenance area at YELLOW BEACH, the alternative

second objective, and

third objective

will be those shown as "alternative" in Appx A, and

beach maintenance area, and

area of ESB/<sup>beach</sup>responsibility

will be those shown as "alternative" in Appx G.

see  
Addenda  
(Appx "p")



21. Beach Organization

- (a) Military Landing Officer - Lt Col B R SEARL, AA & QMG  
9 Aust Div, will be responsible for beach organization.
- (b) He will be assisted by -  
Beach Master (US Boat Control Officer) -  
2/Lieut CAMPBELL, 2 ESB.
- (c) CO 532 Gp, Lt Col E D BROCKETT, will co-ordinate all ESB functions and will have with him -  
Aust Co-ordinating LO - Maj G C REID, HQ 9 Aust Div,  
One LO, RAE 9 Aust Div.

22. Control of ESB Craft

CO 532 Gp is responsible for :

- (a) Control of ESB craft after the landing;
- (b) recce for laying up areas for craft;
- (c) reporting to Comd 9 Aust Div on arrangements made for laying up of craft;
- (d) retaining 10 LCM and 10 LCV (P) in good working order at far shore and for reporting to ESB Control Ship when remaining craft are free to leave far shore;
- (e) provision of craft as C & C boats as required. This includes maintaining a total of 2 craft at YELLOW BEACH and one boat at disposal CO Sigs 9 Aust Div;
- (f) provision of 3 C & C boats, immediately after disembarkation of leading ESB wave to RV at HQ Ship to take off dets of HQ 9 Aust Div from HQ Ship and Relief HQ Ship;
- (g) Provision of close support to the landing as shown in para 16(d) above.

23. Reserve

26 Aust Inf Bde (less 2/23 Aust Inf Bn) with under command :

3 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy

and in support

2/7 Aust Fd Coy

2/11 Aust Fd Amb

will :

- (a) assemble clear of the beach as shown in para 30; provide labour as set out in Maintenance Project; and provide additional labour as required by MLO;
- (b) prepare to pass through 20 Aust Inf Bde and exploit towards BINOCULAR.

24. RAA

- (a) CRA 9 Aust Div will command all fd arty, 1t AA arty and all Bombardment LOs and FOOs, except -

E Tp 2/12 Aust Fd Regt

One sec 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt

} under command  
2/13 Aust Inf Bn



24. RAA (continued)

(b) Tasks - Support of the landing

Support of land operations

AA defence of RED BEACH and subsequent co-ordination of AA defences.

(c) Allotment of FOOs - 2 with each bn of 20 and 26 Aust Inf Bdes

Allotment of Arty LOs - CO 2/12 Aust Fd Regt with HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde

1 officer with HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde.

25. Engineers

(a) CRE 9 Aust Div will command :

all RAE units,  
A and C Coys 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn, for work on the beach,  
all engineer subunits of 532 Gp for work on the beach.

(b) Tasks :

(i) Provision and operation of equipment to assist in loading, stowage and unloading of landing craft.

(ii) Clearance of minor obstacles in the beach area to enable forward troops to move their vehicles off the beach.

(iii) Division of duties between RAE and engineers of 532 Gp.

(iv) Development of water supply.

(v) Provision of engineer services for development of beach maintenance area.

(vi) Construction, improvement and maintenance and marking of communications including bridges and supply routes for vehicles. Co-ordination of communications between beach and beach maintenance areas.

(vii) Support of land operations.

(viii) Selection, with officer representative of 5 AF, construction and maintenance of an air strip for Boomerangs and Wirraways and development of it for C47s.

26. Pioneers

2/3 Aust Pnr Bn (less A and C Coys) will provide labour as required by MLO.

A and C Coys 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn will be under command CRE 9 Aust Div for work on the beach.

27. Labour - All available troops will be used to the fullest extent to assist in unloading stores and clearance of the beach area as quickly as possible.

28. Defence works on RED BEACH - will not be begun without approval of MLO.

29. Clearance of Beach

All ranks will be impressed with necessity for avoiding interference with clearance of craft. Cross traffic must be reduced to minimum, and kept off the beach where possible.



30. Clearance of Troops from LST

- (a) All troops, less those responsible for vehicles in the craft, arriving in LST, will on landing immediately move 100 yards directly inland, led by inf bn dets of 26 Aust Inf Bde, and form up.
- (b) [From these forming up places RAE personnel will be led by guides provided by CRE 9 Aust Div to tasks on the beach.]
- (c) All ~~except~~ RAE personnel will be led by dets of 26 Aust Inf Bde to Traffic Control Post (TCP) at north end of COCONUT PLANTATION.
- (d) At TCP units will be met by unit guides and directed to their assembly areas.
- (e) Routes and probable location of assembly areas are shown in trace, Appx C.
- (f) Vehicles will move from LST only as ordered by MLO. Units will have guides at TCP at north end of COCONUT PLANTATION to take over their vehicles.

31. Naval Bombardment

- (a) The landing is to be supported by a preliminary naval bombardment, by timed programme which will be notified later.

Allotment of destroyers -

YELLOW BEACH - 2 DDs  
RED BEACH - 3 DDs.

*See Addenda -  
Appx "P"*

- (b) Subsequently naval support of land operations will be directed by FOOs.
- (c) Naval Bombardment FOOs -

Allotment -

YELLOW BEACH - 1 FOO  
RED BEACH - 2 FOOs.

These FOOs will keep in touch with forward bns and with fd arty FOOs.

- (d) Army Bombardment LOs -

One BLO with each bombarding group

One senior bombardment officer with the naval officer commanding bombarding ships.

32. Air Support - 5 AF is undertaking :-

- (a) Direct support to neutralize enemy airfields.
- (b) Location and attack on enemy barge traffic and naval craft.
- (c) D Day - bombardment of PIPSQUEAK airfield and of BINOCULAR
- (d) Provision of smoke to cover initial landing if conditions are favourable.
- (e) Where practicable, close support in an emergency.
- (f) Fighter protection of the landing operations.
- (g) Army co-operation.

*See Appx "P"*



33. Army Co-operation - One Flight 4 AC Sqn RAAF is under command of 9 Aust Div. Tasks on D Day are shown in Appx N attached.

34. Security

- (a) The utmost secrecy will be maintained in planning and execution of these operations.
- (b) The contents of this order, but only as much of it as is necessary, will be made known only to those who require knowledge of it.
- (c) Discretion will be used in marking of maps and diagrams, and in the carrying of classified documents.
- (d) The operations will not be discussed in the presence of unauthorised persons and no mention made other than by MOST SECRET means.
- (e) Care will be paid to conversation in messes, quarters and transport vehicles and particularly in the presence of natives. Most natives know some English and some do carry the news to the enemy.

ADM

35. Adm orders are being issued separately.

36. Maintenance Project is being issued separately.

INTERCOMN

37. Warning of approach of aircraft and ships will be passed by Fighter Control Liaison Sec to Sigs 9 Aust Div for promulgation :-

- (a) By day to HQ 12 Aust Lt AA Bty until HQ 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt opens and after that to HQ 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt.
- (b) By night, to HQ 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt } first  
Boat Control Sec } priority  
HQ 9 Aust Div  
Inf Bde HQs  
MLO.

38. Location of Hqs Afloat -

Comd CTF 76  
Comd 9 Aust Div } - HQ Ship **USS CONYNCHAM**  
CRA 9 Aust Div }  
G I, CO Sigs, BMRA - Relief HQ Ship **USS FLUSSER**  
Comd 20 Aust Inf Bde - LCI, Army No RED 33  
Comd 2/13 Aust Inf Bn - LCI, Army No YELLOW 22  
Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde - IST, Army No RED 122

39. Probable Location of Hqs After Landing

HQ 9 Aust Div  
HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde }  
HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde } See Appx C.  
Beach Signals Station }

40. Visual Recognition Signals, Naval Bombardment and Close Support

In order to indicate positions of flanks to naval ships, troops moving outward from RED and YELLOW BEACHES will indicate their flanks by flying yellow flags 3 ft square in such a way as to be clearly visible to ships to seaward.



41. Headquarters not forming part of Landing Group One

- Adv HQ 1 Aust Corps - LETTER BOX, from about D minus 3 Day.
- HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde - moving with Landing Group Three.
- Rear HQ 9 Aust Div - CHIVALRY.

42. Progress Reports

The following will be reported in clear by the quickest means available by forward bn comds to Bde HQ repeated Div HQ :

- (a) Landing at correct beach.

This will be reported by code words :

<u>Code word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
CABBAGE	RED BEACH correct
TURNIP	YELLOW BEACH correct

- (b) Capture of beaches and objectives.

This will be done by sending code words shown in para 43.

43. Code Words for Beaches and Objectives

Code words for reporting capture of beaches and objectives are :

RED BEACH	-	ALAMEIN
FIRST OBJECTIVE	-	BARDIA
SECOND OBJECTIVE	-	TOBRUK
THIRD OBJECTIVE	-	BENGASI
YELLOW BEACH	-	EL DUDA
FIRST (2/13 Bn) OBJECTIVE	-	KOKODA

( BLUE LINE for exploitation by FIRST BN (2/13 Bn) - GIARABUB  
(or alternative second Div objective)  
Alternative third Div objective - - - - SYRIA

44. Progress Location Reports

- (a) From H Hour onwards, formations and units will report the position of all troops half-hourly to HQ 9 Aust Div.
- (b) Sigs 9 Aust Div will arrange for units on L of C to "tee in" on the line to obtain information of progress by forward troops.
- (c) In addition, important information will be reported to HQ 9 Aust Div immediately.

45. Signal Instructions and Diagrams - see attached Appx H.

ACKNOWLEDGE *D. - 701. 26 Aug 43*

Issued through Sigs

Time of signature 2200 hrs.

*R. B. Barker* Lt-Col  
GS

DISTRIBUTION :

POSTERN Distribution List "Y".



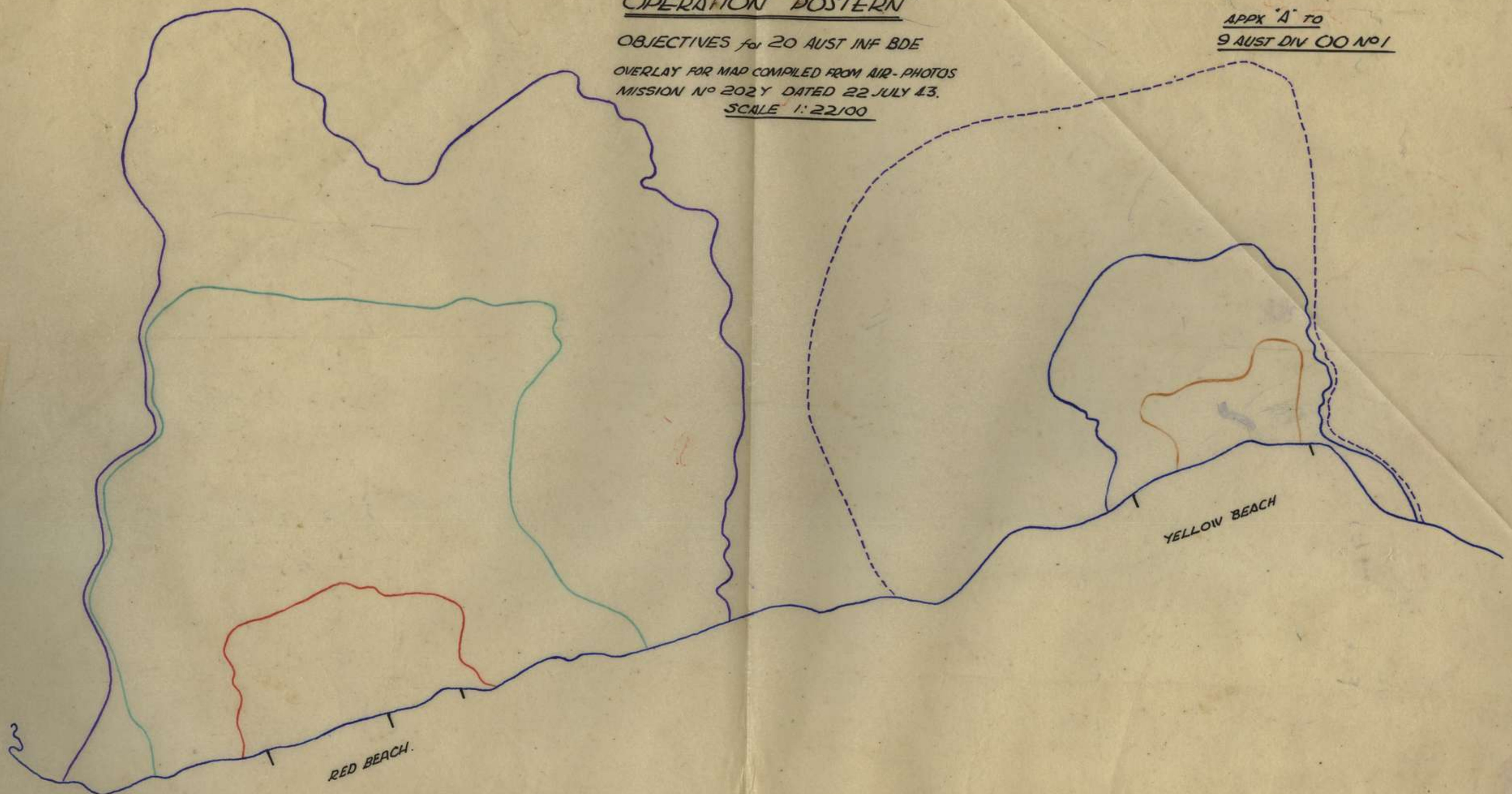
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MOST SECRET

APPX 'A' TO  
9 AUST DIV CO NO 1

OPERATION "POSTERN"

OBJECTIVES for 20 AUST INF BDE  
OVERLAY FOR MAP COMPILED FROM AIR- PHOTOS  
MISSION NO 202Y DATED 22 JULY 43.  
SCALE 1:22100



LEGEND

CODE NAME FOR REPORTING CAPTURE

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| RED BEACH     | "ALAMEIN"  |
| 1ST OBJECTIVE | "BARDIA"   |
| 2ND OBJECTIVE | "TOBRUCH"  |
| 3RD OBJECTIVE | "BENGHASI" |

LEGEND

CODE NAME FOR REPORTING CAPTURE

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| YELLOW BEACH  | "EL DUDA"  |
| FIRST (2/13) BN OBJECTIVE   | "KOKODA"   |
| BLUE LINE for EXPLOITATION by FIRST BN (2/13 BN)<br>or ALTERNATIVE SECOND DIV OBJECTIVE | "GIARABUS" |
| ALTERNATIVE THIRD DIV OBJECTIVE   | "SYRIA"    |



37/88/55

MOST SECRET

Appx "B" to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No. 1OPERATION POSTERN

Copy No 8

9 AUST DIV TABULATED ORDER OF BATTLE D DAYShowing Subdivision into Landing Groups

	Unit	Strength	Land- ing Group One	Land- ing Group Two	Land- ing Group Three	LOB
HQ	HQ 9 Aust Div	226	88	55	-	83
	A Coy 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn, less three pls	62	31	31	-	-
CAV	2/4 Aust Indep Coy	277	-	250	-	27
RAA	HQ RAA 9 Aust Div	29	18	11	-	-
	HQ 2/12 Aust Fd Regt	69	32	-	36	1
	2/12 Aust Fd Regt Sig Sec	34	30	-	4	-
	2/12 Aust Fd Regt	642	465	121	22	34
	2/61 Aust LAD	16	-	16	-	-
	2/11 Aust Tk A Bty	153	-	-	-	153
	HQ 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt	33	17	-	16	-
	2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt (less one bty)	488	179	96	182	31
	2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt Sig Sec	15	-	15	-	-
	2/4 Aust Lt AA Wkshop Sec (less one subsec)	33	-	13	20	-
	2/3 Aust Lt AA Bty (Airborne)	171	-	-	-	171
	1 Fd Sec 2/3 Aust Svy Bty	20	20	-	-	-
	One Sec 1 Mob Met Flt RAAF	10	-	10	-	-
	Three Naval Bombardment Parties	38	38	-	-	-
RAE	HQ RAE 9 Aust Div (incl Sig Sec)	52	16	23	-	13
	2/3 Aust Fd Coy	250	164	53	-	33
	2/7 Aust Fd Coy	263	120	97	-	46
	2/13 Aust Fd Coy	250	-	14	196	40
	2/24 Aust Fd Pk Coy	171	6	117	-	48
	2/72 Aust LAD	18	5	-	-	13
	Sec 2/1 Aust Mech Eqpt Coy	111	9	26	32	44
	2/29 Aust Camflg Trg Unit	5	-	-	-	5
SIGS	Sigs 9 Aust Div (incl Cipher Det)	261	145	110	-	6
	2/1 Aust Beach Sig Sec	40	40	-	-	-
	36 W/T Task Sec 19 L of C Sigs	39	39	-	-	-
	2/67 Aust LAD	11	-	-	-	11
INF	HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde	97	58	22	-	17
	1 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	43	43	-	-	-
	20 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec	39	39	-	-	-
	2/58 Aust LAD	16	-	-	-	16
	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	762	684	44	-	34
	2/15 Aust Inf Bn	816	692	35	-	89
	2/17 Aust Inf Bn	802	708	35	-	59
	1 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	16	16	-	-	-
	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde	97	-	4	78	15
	2 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	43	-	-	43	-
	24 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec	42	-	-	42	-
	2/76 Aust LAD	15	-	-	-	15
	2/28 Aust Inf Bn	833	-	2	761	70
	2/32 Aust Inf Bn	776	-	2	704	70
	2/43 Aust Inf Bn	805	-	-	735	70
	2 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	14	-	-	14	-



Unit		Strength	Land- ing Group One	Land- ing Group Two	Land- ing Group Three	LOB
INF	HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde	89	60	-	-	29
(Ctd)	4 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	45	45	-	-	-
	26 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec	42	42	-	-	-
	2/78 Aust LAD	18	-	-	-	18
	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	771	701	-	-	70
	2/24 Aust Inf Bn	745	675	-	-	70
	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	745	675	-	-	70
	3 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	13	13	-	-	-
	C Coy PIB	148	-	-	148	-
ARMD TPS	One Sqn 1 Aust Tk Bn	150	-	-	-	150
MG	2/2 Aust MG Bn	706	-	638	-	68
	2/77 Aust LAD	16	-	-	-	16
PNRS	2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	835	608	157	-	70
CARR	2/9 Aust Div Carr Coy	147	-	-	-	147
AASC	AASC 9 Aust Div	641	47	138	424	32
MEDI-	2/3 Aust Fd Amb	247	-	-	247	-
CAL	2/8 Aust Fd Amb	247	190	57	-	-
	2/11 Aust Fd Amb	247	190	57	-	-
	2/3 Aust CCS	106	42	64	-	-
	2/3 Aust AMCU	19	-	19	-	-
ORD	2/118 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk	22	-	-	9	13
	2/122 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk	22	-	-	-	22
	2/123 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk	22	-	-	-	22
	One Aust Ord Beach Det	10	-	-	-	10
AEME	2/118 Aust Bde Wkshops	127	20	33	52	22
	2/122 Aust Bde Wkshops	127	-	-	-	127
	2/123 Aust Bde Wkshops	127	-	-	-	127
MISC	9 Aust Div Pro Coy (less three secs)	53	30	23	-	-
	9 Aust Div Fd Cash Office	7	-	-	-	7
	9 Aust Div Postal Unit (less three FPOs)	16	-	-	16	-
	9 Aust Div Salv Unit	40	-	-	40	-
	9 Aust Div Sec Reception Camp	10	-	-	10	-
ATT	Fighter Control Liaison Sec 5AF	9	9	-	-	-
	Air Support Party 5 AF	8	8	-	-	-
	Aust ML Gp	5	5	-	-	-
	ATI Sec	4	4	-	-	-
	W/T Det 4 AC Sqn	2	2	-	-	-
	Det ADCS	7	-	-	7	-
TOTAL		15598	7068	2388	3838	2304

ACKNOWLEDGE 0. 17 Aug 70



Copy No 7

OPERATION "OSTERN"

LANDING DIAGRAM

**MOST SECRET**

RED BEACH

APPX D To 9 Aust Div ON N<sup>o</sup> 1

WAVE	TIME	COMPOSITION	CRAFT	TPS
1	H		8 LCM 2 APC 20800	
2	H+10		4 LCI	20800
3	H+15		4 LCI	20800
4	H+30		3 LCI 2 LCV	RAG RAG ESB
5	H+35		7 LCI	2/20 BN 26800 Div HQ
6	H+50		8 LCV	ESB
7	H+55		8 LCV	ESB
8	H+60		4 LCT ALL	ESB
9	H+75		6 LCM 2 LCV	ESB
10	H+85		8 LCV	ESB
11	H+92		8 LCV	ESB
12	H+105		6 LST	2/20 BN 2/4 BN Div HQ
13	H+110		7 LCT	BULK STORES



37/88/55

Copy No

8

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OPERATION "POSTERN"

## LANDING DIAGRAM

RED BEACH

MOST SECRET

Appx D to 9 Aust Div  
OO NO 1.

WAVE	TIME	COMPOSITION	CRAFT	TPS
1	H		2APD	20 BDE
2	H+10		4LCI	20 BDE
3	H+15		4LCI	20 BDE
4	H+30		3LCT 2LCV	RAA RAE ESB
5	H+35		7LCI	2/23 BN 26 BDE DIV HQ
6	H+50		8LCV	ESB
7	H+53		8LCV	ESB
8	H+60		4LCT 4LCM	ESB
9	H+75		6LCM 2LCV	ESB
10	H+85		8LCV	ESB
11	H+92		8LCV	ESB
12	H+105		5LST	2/24 E 2/25 BNS LINTAS
13	H+110		7LCT	BULK STAGE

ACKNOWLEDGE

17 Aug. 70



2. Hunt M. G.  
Rm  
D. M. S.  
H. Hunt



OPERATION POSTERN

9 AUST DIV LANDING TABLE D DAY.

Copy No 7...

Time of Beaching	Beach	Army No	Craft	Unit	Remarks
H Hour	YELLOW	11,12	2 APD	Two coys 2/13 Aust Inf Bn RAA & RAE Recce Parties	Men land in LCVs carried 4 per APD
	RED	11,12	2 APD	One coy 2/15 Aust Inf Bn One coy 2/17 " " " RAA, RAE and ESB Recce Parties	as above
H plus 10 mins	YELLOW	21,22,23	3 LCI	2/13 Aust Inf Bn & att less two coys E Tp 62 Aust Fd Bty Two dets 10 Aust Lt AA Bty Det RAE 9 Aust Div Lt sec 2/8 Aust Fd Amb	incl Bn HQ
	RED	21. 22. 23. 24	4 LCI	Two coys 2/15 Aust Inf Bn & att Two coys 2/17 Aust Inf Bn & att RAA parties	incl Bn HQ " " "
H plus 15 mins	RED	31 - 34	4 LCI	One coy 2/15 Aust Inf Bn & att One coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn & att HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde RAA Recce parties RAE Recce parties 2/1 Aust Beach Sigs Sec Two lt secs 2/8 Aust Fd Amb Recce Party HQ 9 Aust Div Recce Party Div Maintenance Area	incl HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
H plus 30 mins	RED	41 - 44	3 LCI	Dets RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div 20 Aust Inf Bde Sigs 9 Aust Div	Arm, engr and unit stores to be carried on sledges. 6 x 25 prs (1t) 6 x 40 mm Bofors 20 Aust Inf Bde unit vehicles
	YELLOW	31, 32	2 LCI	E Tp 62 Aust Fd Bty Two dets 10 Aust Lt AA Bty Det 2/3 Aust Fd Coy	Carries 2/13 Bn unit equipment and two days WUR. 4 x 25 prs 2 x 40 mm Bofors RAE mech equip-ment.
H plus 35 mins	RED	51 - 57	7 LCI	Main HQ 9 Aust Div HQ RAA 9 Aust Div HQ RAE 9 Aust Div Sigs 9 Aust Div  2/23 Aust Inf Bn Dets 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn 2/11 Aust Fd Amb	



Operation Order No. 1  
Apdx "B" to 2 Aust Div  
Copy No. ...

OPERATION POSTERN

2nd Aust Div Landing Table D Day

Time of Landing	Beach	Army No.	Craft	Unit	Remarks
H plus 50 mins to H plus 92 mins	RED	ESB Craft (6 waves)		532 Shore Bn 2 ESB	
H plus 105 mins	RED	121-126	6 LST	2/24 Aust Inf Bn 2/48 Aust Inf Bn Div troops HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde	Unit vehicles 6 x 40mm Bofors 6 x 25 prs RAE mech equipment 504 tons bulk stores
H plus 110 mins	RED	131-137	7 LCT	Dets 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	840 tons bulk-loaded stores.



MOST SECRET

Appx 'F' to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 1

OPERATION POSTERN

COMPOSITION OF LANDING GROUPS

Copy No 7....  
Unit Serial  
No

1. Landing Group One - D Day

(a) YELLOW BEACH

2/13 Aust Inf Bn, with under comd :	50
"E" Tp 62 Aust Fd Bty	74
One sec 10 Aust Lt AA Bty (less det)	126
"B" Coy 2/8 Aust Fd Amb	52
and in support :	
2 Pl 2/3 Aust Fd Coy	60

(b) RED BEACH

HQ	Main HQ 9 Aust Div	84
	One pl A Coy 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	225
RAA	HQ RAA 9 Aust Div	69
	2/12 Aust Fd Regt (less one tp and four dets)	74
	2/12 Aust Fd Regt Sig Sec	74
	Det 2/61 Aust LAD	74
	HQ 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt and Sig Sec	126
	Two dets 10 Aust Lt AA Bty	
	12 Aust Lt AA Bty	
	Three Naval Bombardment Parties	
	1 Sec 2/3 Aust Svy Bty	
RAE	HQ RAE 9 Aust Div	81
	Det 2/3 Aust Fd Coy	60
	Det 2/7 Aust Fd Coy	89
	Det 2/24 Aust Fd Pk Coy	67
	Det 2/1 Aust Mech Eqpt Coy	124
	Det 2/72 Aust LAD	67
SIGS	Sigs 9 Aust Div (less dets)	66
	2/43 Aust Cipher Sec (less det)	68
	2/1 Aust Beach Sigs Sec	
	36 W/T Task Sec 19 L of C Sigs	
INF	HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde	88
	1 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	225
	20 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec	88
	1 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	95
	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	50
	2/15 Aust Inf Bn	99
	2/17 Aust Inf Bn	56
	FPO 35	55
	HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde	65
	2 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	225
	26 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec	65
	3 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	95
	FPO 36	55
	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	82
	2/24 Aust Inf Bn	91
	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	77
PNR	2/3 Aust Pnr Bn (less det)	140
AASC	Det AASC 9 Aust Div	59 (HQ)
AAMC	2/8 Aust Fd Amb (less det)	52
	2/11 Aust Fd Amb (less det)	70
	Lt Sec 2/3 Aust CCS	
ORD	Det 2/118 Aust Ord Fd Pk	83
AEME	Det 2/118 Aust Bde Wkshop	76
	Det 2/4 Aust Lt AA Wkshop Sec	126



MISC 9 Aust Div Pro Coy (less four secs) 95

ATT Air Sp Party 5 AF  
Fighter Control Liaison Sec 5 AF  
ATI Sec  
Aust ML Det  
W/T Det 4 AC Sqn RAAF

2. Landing Group Two - Night D/D Plus 1

HQ	Det HQ 9 Aust Div	84
	A Coy 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn (less three pls)	225
RECCE	2/4 Aust Indep Coy	94
RAA	62 Aust Fd Bty (less one tp)	74
	Four dets 23 and 24 Aust Fd Btys	74
	1 Fd Sec 2/3 Aust Svy Bty	
	2/61 Aust LAD	74
	Det 2/4 Aust Lt AA Wkshop	126
	One sec Mob Met Flt RAAF	
RAE	Det 2/3 Aust Fd Coy	60
	Det 2/7 Aust Fd Coy	89
	Det 2/13 Aust Fd Coy	86
	Det 2/24 Aust Fd Pk Coy	67
	Det 2/1 Aust Mech Eqpt Coy	124
SIGS	Det Sigs 9 Aust Div	66
INF	B Ech parties : 20 Aust Inf Bde	88
	2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	140
MG	2/2 Aust MG Bn	182
AASC	Det AASC 9 Aust Div	
AAMC	Det 2/8 Aust Fd Amb	52
	Det 2/11 Aust Fd Amb	70
	Hy Sec 2/3 Aust CCS	
	2/3 Aust AMCU	696
AEME	Det 2/118 Aust Bde Wkshop	76
MISC	One sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	95

3. Landing Group Three - Night D Plus 1/D plus 2

RAA	2/12 Aust Fd Regt - balance of personnel	74
	2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt " " "	126
RAE	2/13 Aust Fd Coy	86
	Det 2/1 Aust Mech Eqpt Coy	124
INF	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde	96
	2 Pl 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	225
	24 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec	96
	2 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy	95
	FPO 35	55
	2/28 Aust Inf Bn	63
	2/32 Aust Inf Bn	61
	2/43 Aust Inf Bn	93
	C Coy PIB	
AASC	Det AASC 9 Aust Div	
AAMC	2/3 Aust Fd Amb	57
AEME	Det 2/118 Aust Bde Wkshop	76
MISC	9 Aust Div Salv Unit	78
	9 Aust Div Sec Reception Camp	71
	9 Aust Div Postal Unit	55
	B Sec Aust FSW	84
	Det ADCS	



C.O. P.W.  
Appl.  
Sig Off

103/88/53

MOST SECRET

Appx H to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 1  
-----

OPERATION POSTERN  
INTERCOMMUNICATION

Copy No 7

1. Wireless Silence - will only be broken :
  - (a) by assault troops on landing,
  - (b) in extreme emergency where no other means of communication exists.
2. Beach Signals Station
  - (a) A beach signals station will open on RED BEACH by H plus 25 minutes.
  - (b) Bde HQs will choose an initial location close to a beach signals station (as far as consistent with tactical requirements) so that immediate contact is maintained until their own signals seos are fully in action.
  - (c) All units and sub-units landing will send an orderly to Beach Signals Station.
3. HQ 9 Aust Div
  - (a) Div Report Centre will open at Beach Signals Station RED BEACH at about H plus 25 minutes.
  - (b) Adv HQ 9 Aust Div lands at about H plus 45 minutes and will open at the same site as Div Report Centre.
4. Codes
  - (a) Wireless communications by formations and units of 9 Aust Div in the forward area will be by R/T in clear using pre-arranged code names and R/T Code No 2 already issued.
  - (b) Code words covering phases of the landing will be issued separately.

5. Priority of Traffic

Officers authorised to originate priority traffic are :

<u>Aust</u>		<u>USA</u>	
Comd	{	Most Immediate	Not used
GI		Emergency Enemy Aircraft	" "
CRA		Emergency	Urgent
Bde Comds			
Offrs mentioned above and	{	Immediate	Operational Priority
AQ			
GII			
BMRA			
BMs			
Offrs mentioned above and	{	Important	Priority
Unit Comds			
Staff Offrs			
CO Signals			

6. Visual Signals

The same restrictions as apply to W/T and R/T apply to the use of V/S where lights etc may be visible to enemy.



7. Cipher

Within 9 Aust Div - Normal cipher.  
Inter service - American cipher device M209.

8. Time

- (a) Watches will be synchronised with ~~clocks on~~ *chronometers on bridge of* naval vessels at H minus 60 minutes.
- (b) Zone K time will be used.
- (c) Ashore - ABC time signals through Sigs at 0800 and 2000 hrs daily.

9. Recognition Signal

ACB 0224 (2) will be used shore to ship. Extracts issued separately.

10. Station Recognition Block Numbers

Serial No 11A will be used and has been issued.

11. Channels for Military Signals Traffic

(a) Afloat

- (i) HQ 9 Aust Div, bdes, bns and attached units - existing naval channels.  
HQ 9 Aust Div, bdes, bns and attached units - Aldis lamp.
- (ii) Air Support Control  
Fighter Control  
Naval Bombardment Centre } Control set on HQ Ship.
- (iii) HQ 9 Aust Div to base - naval channels.
- (iv) On each vessel carrying W/T an officer will notify the wireless room of his location for delivery of army messages.
- (v) Army messages passed on naval channels will have as first word of text "MILCOM".
- (vi) Diagrams of communications in various phases attached.

(b) Landing

- (i) HQ 9 Aust Div to shore - W/T to Adv HQ 9 Aust Div set at Beach Signals Station.
- (ii) Reports for bdes passed via Beach Signals Station and Adv HQ 9 Aust Div set.

(c) Ashore

- (i) As in diagram attached.
- (ii) Air warning, through Fighter Control Liaison Sec with HQ 9 Aust Div.
- (iii) Listening set at HQ 9 Aust Div for interception of forward W/T traffic for Comd's information.

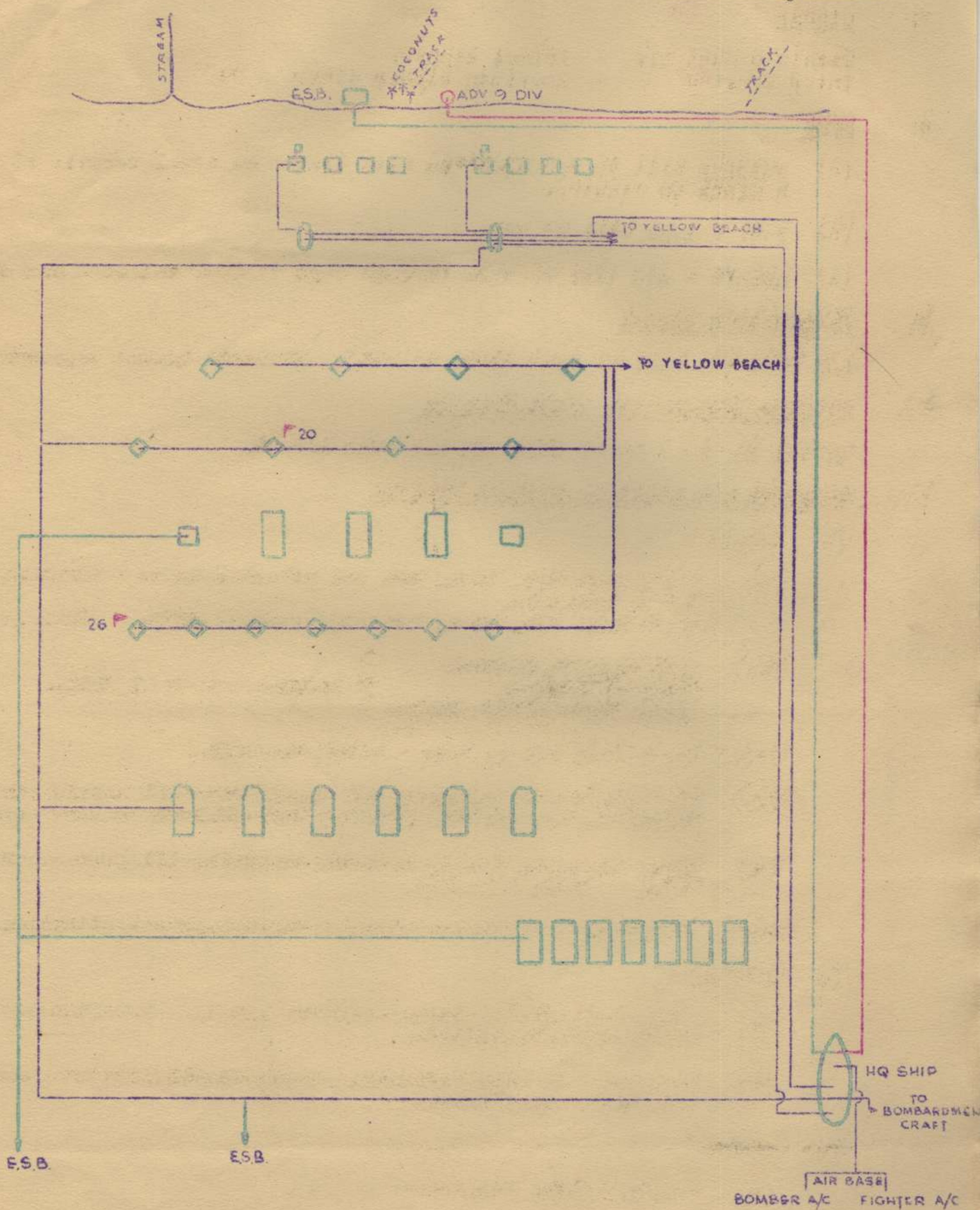
(d) DRLS

- (i) Before D minus 2 Day - 1 Aust Corps to 9 Aust Div - passed to MILNE BAY FRT COMD through ATC LETTERBOX for onward transmission.
- (ii) After D minus 1 Day - cleared as aircraft and/or shipping available.



COMMUNICATIONS  
AFLOAT & LANDING  
RED BEACH "D" DAY

MOST SECRET  
APPX "H" TO  
9. AUST DIV OO NO 1  
COPY NO 7



LEGEND  
— NAVAL LINK  
— ESB LINK  
— ARMY LINK

LEGEND for CRAFT  
□ LCV's  
○ APD's  
◇ LCI's  
▭ LCT's  
▭ LST's

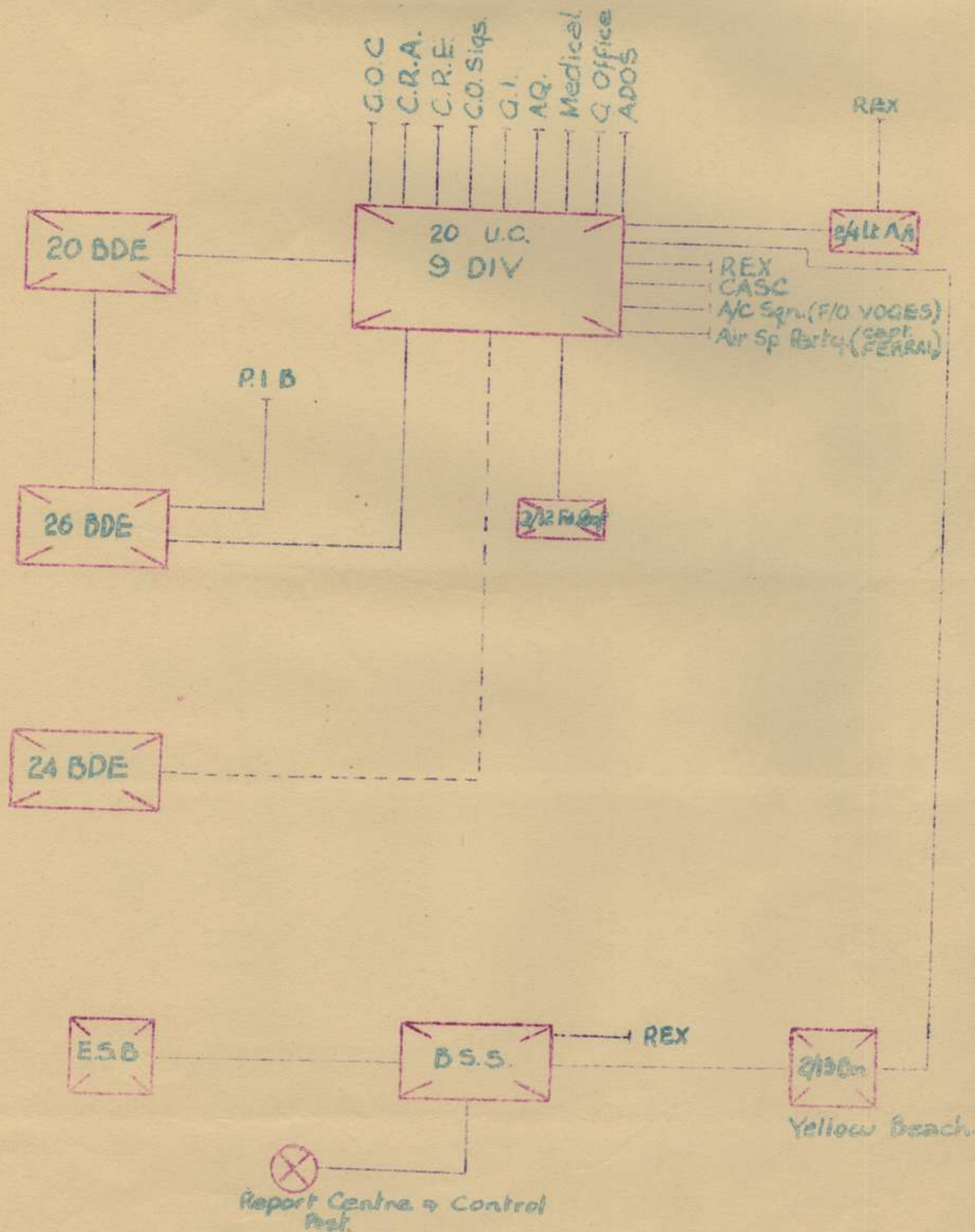


OPERATION POSTERN.  
LINE DIAGRAM ASHORE.

MOST SECRET  
APPENDIX 'H'

To 9 Asst. Div. O.O.N.P.

Copy N° 7



REX Air Support Control.  
B.S.S. Beach Signal Station.



# OPERATION POSTERN

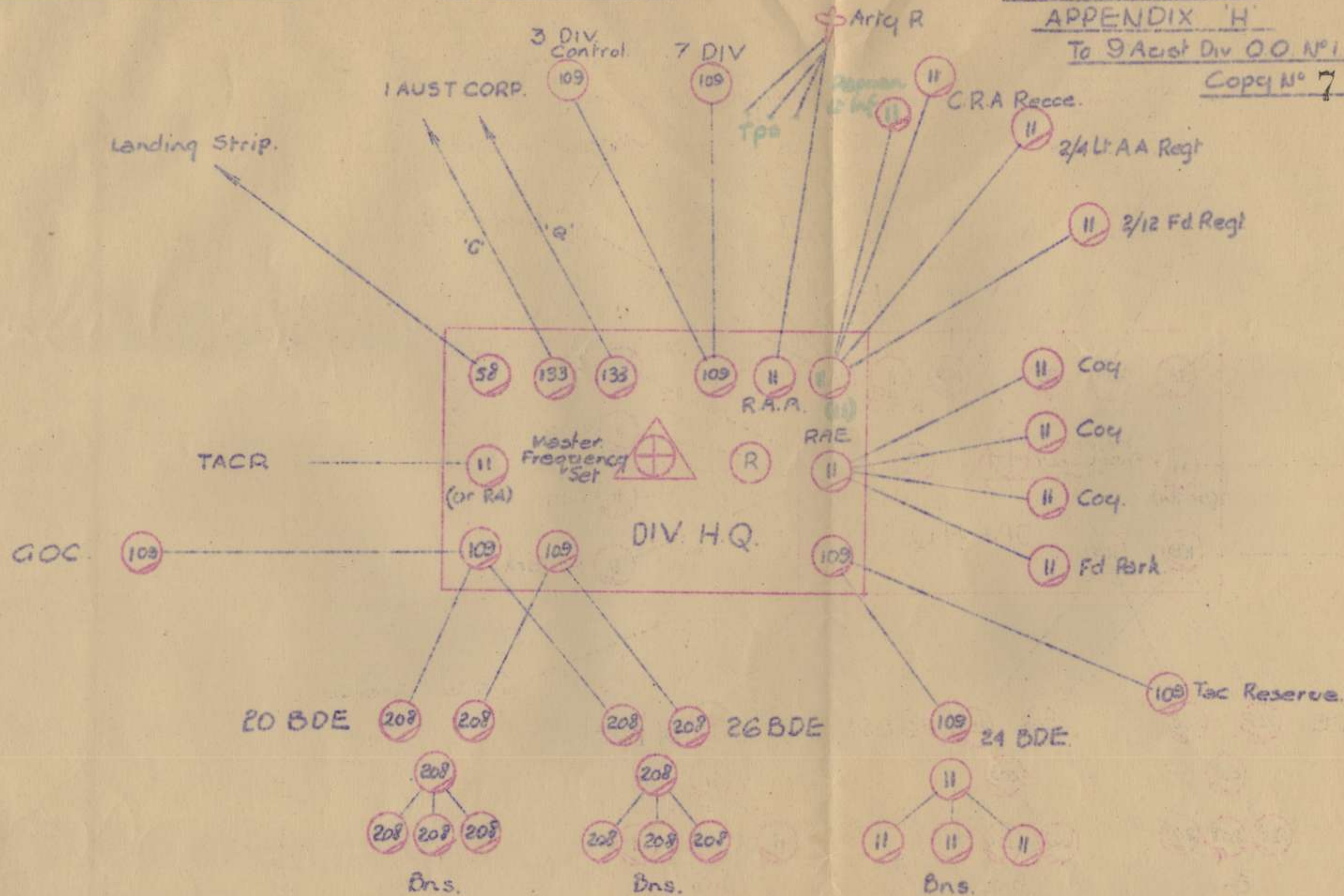
## W/T DIAGRAM

MOST SECRET

APPENDIX 'H'

To 9 Aust Div O.O. No 1

Copy No 7





MOST SECRET

Appx "J" to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 1  
-----

OPERATION POSTERN

ORGANISATION OF 532 SHORE BN 2 ESB

Copy No 7

<u>Serial</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Personnel</u>
1.	Shore Bn 532 Regt	640
2.	Boat Control Sec	50
3.	Sigs	20
4.	Regt Medical Det	60
5.	Medical Coy - 262 Medical Bn	110
6.	Boat Crews (incl LCV, LCM, Maintenance, Salvage)	66
		<hr/> 946 <hr/>

<u>Landing Craft</u>		<u>Vehicles</u>	
LCV(P)	36	TD-D Bulldozer	9
LCM	10	D7 "	1
LCT	4	2½ ton 6x6 Truck	6
ES	3	¾ ton 4x4	15
38' Patrol Boats	2	¼ ton 4x4	12
APC - Comd Boat	1	Gallion Rd Grader	1
		4 ton 6x6 Wrecker	1
		Mob Crane & Trailer	1
		Beach Sleds	18
		Mob Air Compressor	1

Weapons

37 mm 1k A Guns	6
50 cal AAMG	6
30 cal LMG - ground & AA	12
60 mm Mortar	12

All personnel except Medical  
armed with rifles.



OPERATION POSTERN

MOST SECRET

Appx 'L' to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 1

RAINFALL DATA BINOCULAR AND DIMINISH

Copy No...7

BINOCULAR

DIMINISH

	<u>Average Inches</u>	<u>Maximum Inches</u>	<u>Minimum Inches</u>		<u>Average Inches</u>	<u>Maximum Inches</u>	<u>Minimum Inches</u>
JAN	8.24	12.40	1.42		3.44	5.18	1.22
FEB	9.44	15.17	3.69		4.25	9.78	1.28
MAR	13.05	20.33	8.33		7.03	13.03	1.59
APR	16.73	22.04	12.71		9.64	18.84	5.77
MAY	17.60	29.44	6.38		11.34	20.68	1.77
JUN	15.28	24.67	8.38		23.96	36.91	4.40
JUL	17.47	28.41	8.91		20.70	27.60	14.05
AUG	18.85	28.95	11.92		24.66	34.25	16.29
SEP	20.63	36.30	15.08		20.72	31.54	14.30
OCT	14.24	24.01	2.83		9.90	12.30	7.58
NOV	14.71	22.05	6.93		9.60	16.29	6.37
DEC	11.23	18.16	1.45		4.22	5.59	1.92
YEAR	177.47	214.42	163.09		149.46	169.95	98.80

Average number of rain days (one point or over) at BINOCULAR for each month are as follows :-

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
11	10	14	14	16	17	20	21	18	14	15	13

Average number of rain days annually - 183

RAINFALL DATA AT SINGAUA PLANTATION

Annual Rainfall : 125 - 130 inches  
Rain days : August - approximately 21  
September- approximately 18



119/88/55-

MOST SECRETOPERATION POSTERNAppendix M to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 1

Copy No. 7

STANDARD TIMES OF MOONRISE AND MOONSET AT SINGAUA PLANTATION

Date	AUGUST		Date	SEPTEMBER	
Phase of Moon	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase of Moon	Moonrise	Moonset
1			1	0703	1917
2			2	0743	2002
3			3	0825	2049
4			4	0907	2137
5			5	0952	2227
6			6	1039	2319
7			7	First quarter	1129
8			8		1223
9			9		1319
10			10		1420
11			11		1520
12			12		1621
13			13		1721
14			14	Full Moon	1819
15			15		1915
16	Full Moon		16		2009
17			17		2107
18	2037	0813	18		2155
19	2131	0903	19		2246
20	2223	0951	20		2339
21	2314	1039	21	Last quarter	----
22	----	1126	22		0027
23	Last quarter	1212	23		0116
24	0054	1259	24		0203
25	0145	1348	25		0250
26	0233	1426	26		0335
27	0321	1524	27		0418
28	0408	1611	28		0500
29	0454	1659	29	New Moon	0542
30	0538	1745	30		0624
31	New Moon	1831			1848

STANDARD TIMES OF SUNRISE AND SUNSET AT SINGAUA PLANTATION

		<u>Sunrise</u>	<u>Sunset</u>
Aug	18	0618	1812
	25	0616	1813
Sep	1	0612	1811
	8	0608	1809
	15	0604	1808
	22	0601	1807
	29	0607	1806

ACKNOWLEDGE



MOST SECRET

Appx N to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 1

OPERATION POSTERN

Copy No. 7..

TASKS OF 4 AC SQN ON D DAY

Ref maps : LAE series 1 inch to 1 mile.

1. Beach Identification

At H minus 15 minutes over RED and YELLOW beaches, by alternative means, to be notified later.

2. Arty R

Naval bombardment spotting over the landing areas from H hour until all landing craft are clear of the area.

3. Tac R

(a) Tac R sorties at H plus 3 hrs, H plus 6 hrs, and H plus 9 hrs, to search :

(i) MARKHAM VALLEY road from YALU 552 548 to LAE.

(ii) BUSU RIVER from mouth to KUNDA bridge R 68 54.

(iii) BUREP RIVER from mouth to creek junction R746 508.

(iv) BUNGA RIVER from mouth to river bend at R800 500.

(v) BUHEM RIVER from mouth to S05 59.

(vi) Area HOPOI mission S10 40.

(b) Tac Rs will answer following questions :

(i) Is there any movement towards or away from LAE along the MARKHAM VALLEY road ?

(ii) Is there any movement across or along the rivers in either direction ? If so, of what nature ?

(iii) Is there any sign of enemy movement or occupation of the HOPOI MISSION area ?

4. According to aircraft availability, sorties at call throughout D day for :-

(a) Arty R.

(b) Tac R.



PROFORMA MESSAGE FORM

134/88/55

TO:- POSTERN LIST "Y" LESS SERIALS 9, 10, 18, 23, 27

FROM:- 9 AUST DIV OP95 30

-----  
MOST SECRET (.) ref appx N 00 1 (.) cancel para 1 (.) NO beach identification  
will take place  
-----

If liable etc

DRLS

TOO 1515

*W. J. Gansley* Capt.



122/88/53

MOST SECRET

Subject : OPERATION POSTERN -  
Fifth Air Force Plan.

9 Aust Div  
28 Aug 43  
GP 83/7/-

The following brief extracts are taken from Advanced Echelon Fifth Air Force Plan for Air Operations in support of POSTERN.

1. Force which will be employed :

Entire fighter and bomber force in NEW GUINEA,  
Units of 9 Operational Group, reinforced by -  
67 Fighter Squadron.

2. Bombardment Operations

(a) D minus 8 to D minus 2 both inclusive :

- (i) Harrassing attacks will be executed in the BINOCULAR-DOUBLET area.
- (ii) "Barge hunts" will be carried out in order to disrupt enemy lines of communication.
- (iii) Bomber and long range fighter operations will be conducted against the north coast of NEW GUINEA from PIPSQUEAK to EQUILIBRIUM with sufficient strength and frequency to maintain air supremacy in the portion of NEW GUINEA under consideration.
- (iv) Enemy land lines of communication south of EQUILIBRIUM will be attacked.

(b) D minus 1 - Attack by heavy bombers on the enemy headquarters at BINOCULAR.

(c) D Day -

- (i) Two Bostons will lay smoke to cover the landing if required.
- (ii) Heavy bombers will attack WEBB'S.
- (iii) Units of attack aviation will be held on ground alert for possible strikes against targets in BINOCULAR area as well as enemy naval targets.

3. Fighter Operations

(a) Offensive sweeps, defence duties and cover missions, and cover for strikes.

(b) D minus 8 to D minus 2 - escort of strikes.

4. Cover for Beachhead - D Day

(a) Cover for the beachhead and vital areas in the CONVICTION will be provided using one squadron medium and one for cover.

(b) Three squadrons fighters will remain on ground alert at LETTERBOX and/or MALLET.

5. A suitable bomber force will be held in readiness at all times to support the BINOCULAR operation and to meet an enemy convoy on the "Tokyo Express" run into the BACKHANDER DIMINISH BINOCULAR area.

DISTRIBUTION :

20 Aust Inf Bde  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
26 Aust Inf Bde

RAA 9 Aust Div  
RAE 9 Aust Div  
Sigs 9 Aust Div

2/2 Aust MG Bn  
2/3 Aust Pnr Bn  
Cmd

G  
File  
War

Lt-Col  
GS

(2)  
(2)  
(2)

RC *Garn*



131/88/55  
MOST SECRET

Appx "O" to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No. 1.

Copy No. 7  
29 Aug 43

OPERATION POSTERN  
POSTPONEMENT OF D DAY

1. D Day may be postponed if the weather front DOUBLET - BINOCULAR precludes air co-operation for the landing.
2. 1 Aust Corps is to make the decision by 0600 hrs D minus 1. The following code words will be used to notify postponement of the operation and will be sent in clear :
  - (a) 'TOGO repeat TOGO' meaning that the operation is postponed 24 hrs from the original D Day.
  - (b) 'BANANA repeat BANANA' to be sent if a further postponement of 24 hrs is essential.
  - (c) 'EATER repeat EATER' to be sent if a third postponement of 24 hrs is essential.
  - (d) The above code words will be again used in the above sequence in case of further postponements being necessary.
3. The expected locations of the various echelons of 9 Aust Div and Task Force 76 at 0600 hrs D minus 1, and the means by which the code word will be passed, are shown below :

Landing Group	Craft	Location	Means of passing code word from 1 Aust Corps
Landing Group One	4 APD	PEMMICAN - due to depart 0700 hrs	Naval channels via CTF 76
	18 LCI	At sea - arrive CHIVALRY 0800 hrs	Naval channels
	HQ Ship and Relief HQ Ship	" " "	Naval channels
	12 LCT	PORTICO	18 L of C Sigs Office PORTICO and by Naval channels.
	6 LST	At sea - arrive CHIVALRY 1000 hrs	Naval channels
Landing Group Two	6 LST	At sea - arrive CHIVALRY 1530 hrs	Naval channels
Landing Group Three & LOB Group	-	CHIVALRY	Through Rear HQ 9 Aust Div CHIVALRY.



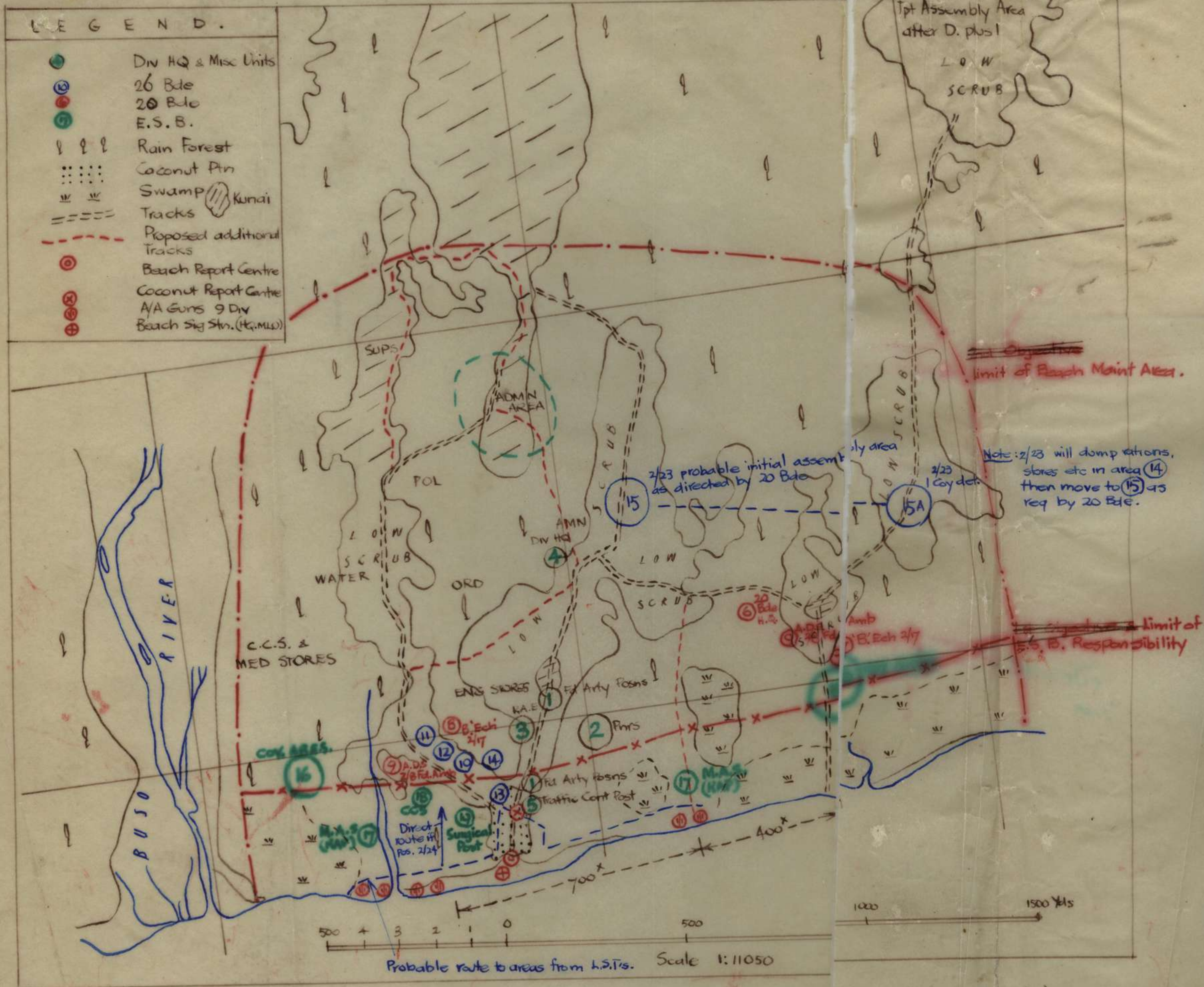
~~MOST SECRET~~

RED BEACH

FIRST KEY PLAN inc Appx A, C, D & G & overlay to Appx C to 9 Aust Div 0.

No 1.

Copy No 2



Legend

- ⑩ 26 Bole HQ & 2/11 Fed Amb
- ⑪ 2/24 Bn
- ⑫ 2/48 Bn
- ⑬ Report Centre 26 Bole
- ⑭ 2/23 Bn assembly area if not committed with 20 Bole

Located in Coconut Ptn

x	Div Hq	Beach Sig Stn
x	Hq 2/4 Lt AA.	M.L.O.
x	Air Sp Sigs	Hq 531 Gp
x	FCI Sec	Beach Def Hq
x	A.C. Link	One A/A Gun E.S.B.

Note: x To move early as possible  
via 'GORDONVALE' to (4).

Cpl. E.J. Cost  
2/2 M.G. Bus  
28 Aug 43.



## RED BEACH

## LEGEND

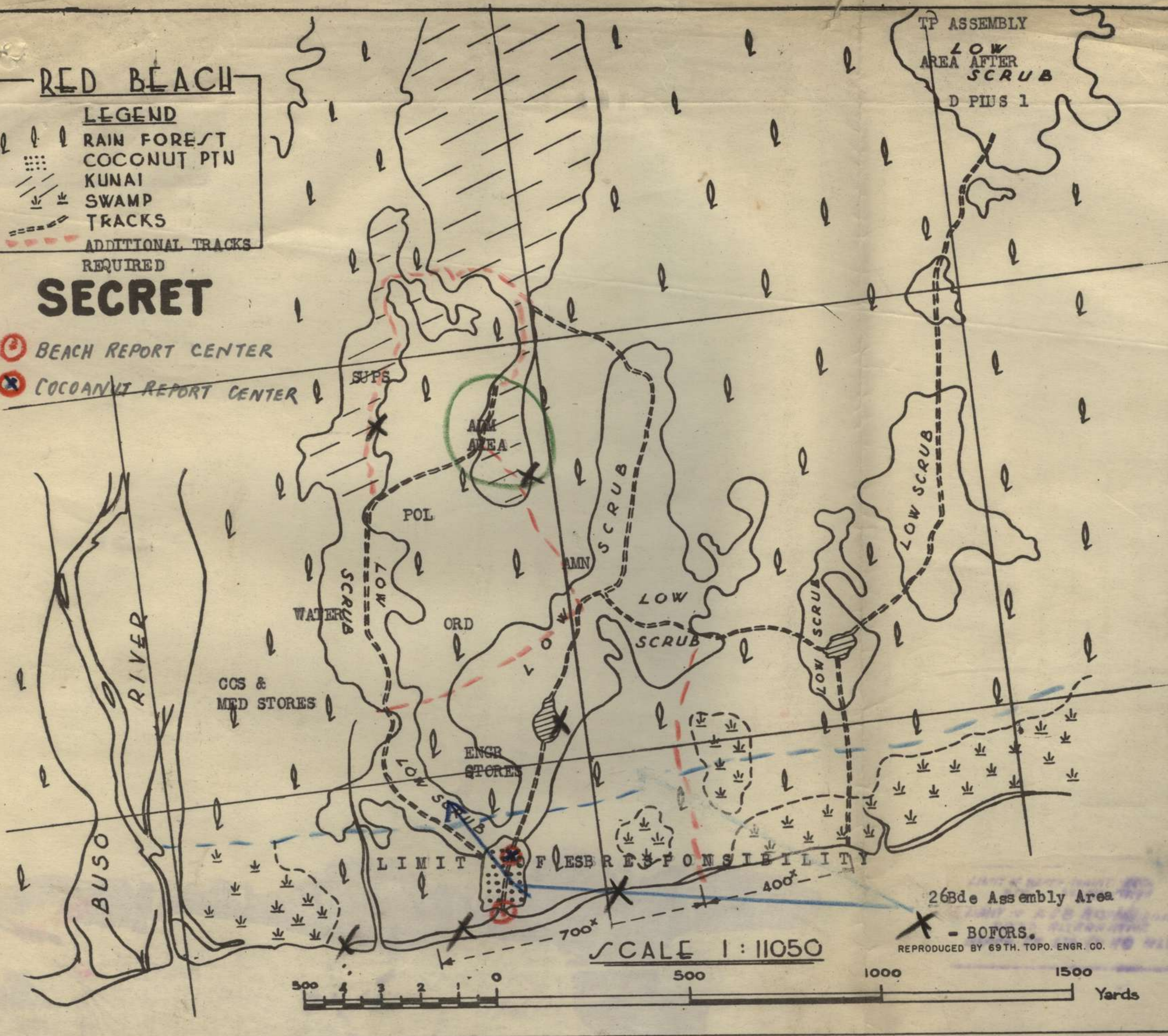
- RAIN FOREST
- COCONUT PTN
- KUNAI
- SWAMP
- TRACKS
- ADDITIONAL TRACKS

REQUIRED

**SECRET**

BEACH REPORT CENTER

COCONUT REPORT CENTER



SCALE 1:11050

26Bde Assembly Area

- BOFORS.

REPRODUCED BY 69TH. TOPO. ENGR. CO.

1000

1500

Yards



MOST SECRET

LEGEND to APPX "C" 9 AUST DIV OO No 1

SHEET TWO

DIV HQ & MISC UNITS

- ① FD ARTY POSITIONS
- ② PIONEERS
- ③ RAG
- ④ DIV HQ
- ⑤ TRAFFIC CONTROL POST

20 AUST INF BDE

- ⑥ BDE HQ
- ⑦ 'B' ECH 2/15 BN
- ⑧ 'B' ECH 2/17 BN
- ⑨ ADS 2/8 FD AMB

26 AUST INF BDE

- ⑩ BDE HQ & 2/11 FD AMB
- ⑪ 2/24 BN
- ⑫ 2/48 BN
- ⑬ REPORT CENTRE 26 BDE
- ⑭ 2/23 BN ASSEMBLY AREA IF NOT COMMITTED WITH 20 BDE
- ⑮ 2/23 BN PROBABLE INITIAL ASSEMBLY AREA AS DIRECTED BY 20 BDE 1 COY DETACHED (15A)

ESB

- ⑯ COY ARES
- ⑰ MAS (RAP)
- ⑱ CCS
- ⑲ SURGICAL POST

----- PROPOSED ADDITIONAL TRACKS

----- PROBABLE ROUTE TO ASSEMBLY AREAS FROM LST

----- UNIT RESPONSIBILITY

----- DIRECT ROUTE IF POSSIBLE (2/24 BN)

① AA GUNS 9 AUST DIV

INITIALLY LOCATED IN COCONUT PLANTATIONS

- \* DIV HQ
- \* HQ 2/4 LT AA
- \* AIR SQ SQS
- \* FCI SEC
- \* AC LINK
- \* BDE HQ
- \* HQ 532 GP
- \* BEACH DEF HQ
- \* ONE AA GUN ESB

\* TO MOVE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE VIA "GORDONVALE" TO SUBSEQUENT LOCATION OF 9 AUST DIV (4)

NOTE :-

2/23 BN WILL DUMP RATIONS, STORES ETC IN AREA 14 THEN MOVE INTO AREA 15 AS REQUIRED BY 20 AUST INF BDE



MOST SECRET

Sub.

101/88/55

Appx "C" to 9 Aust Div ODN 91

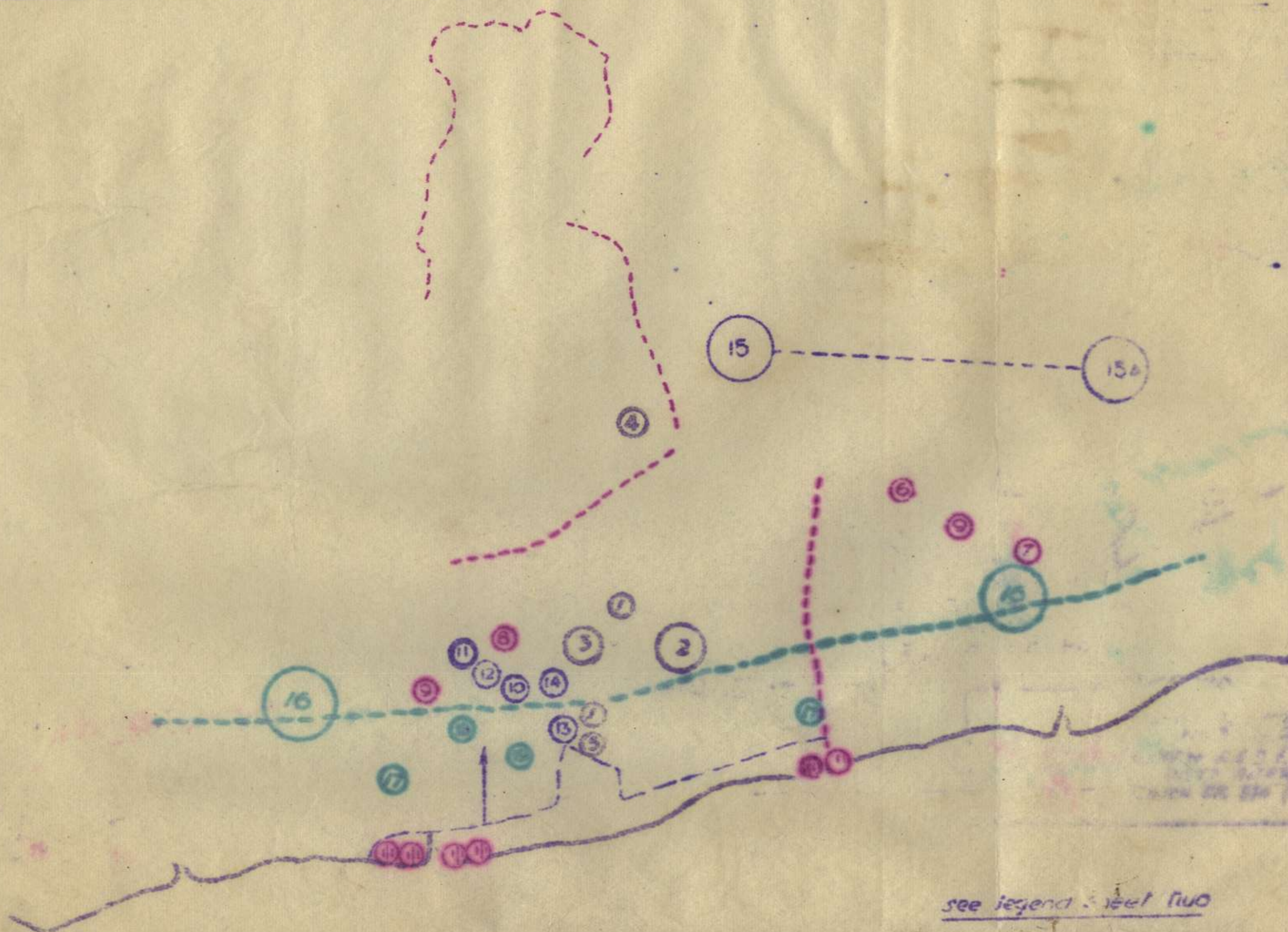
OVERLAY APPX "D" TO 9 AUST DIV MAINTENANCE PROJECT

Showing probable locations of Assembly Areas and HQs  
at RED BEACH immediately after landing.

30

7

SHEET ONE





Copy No 7

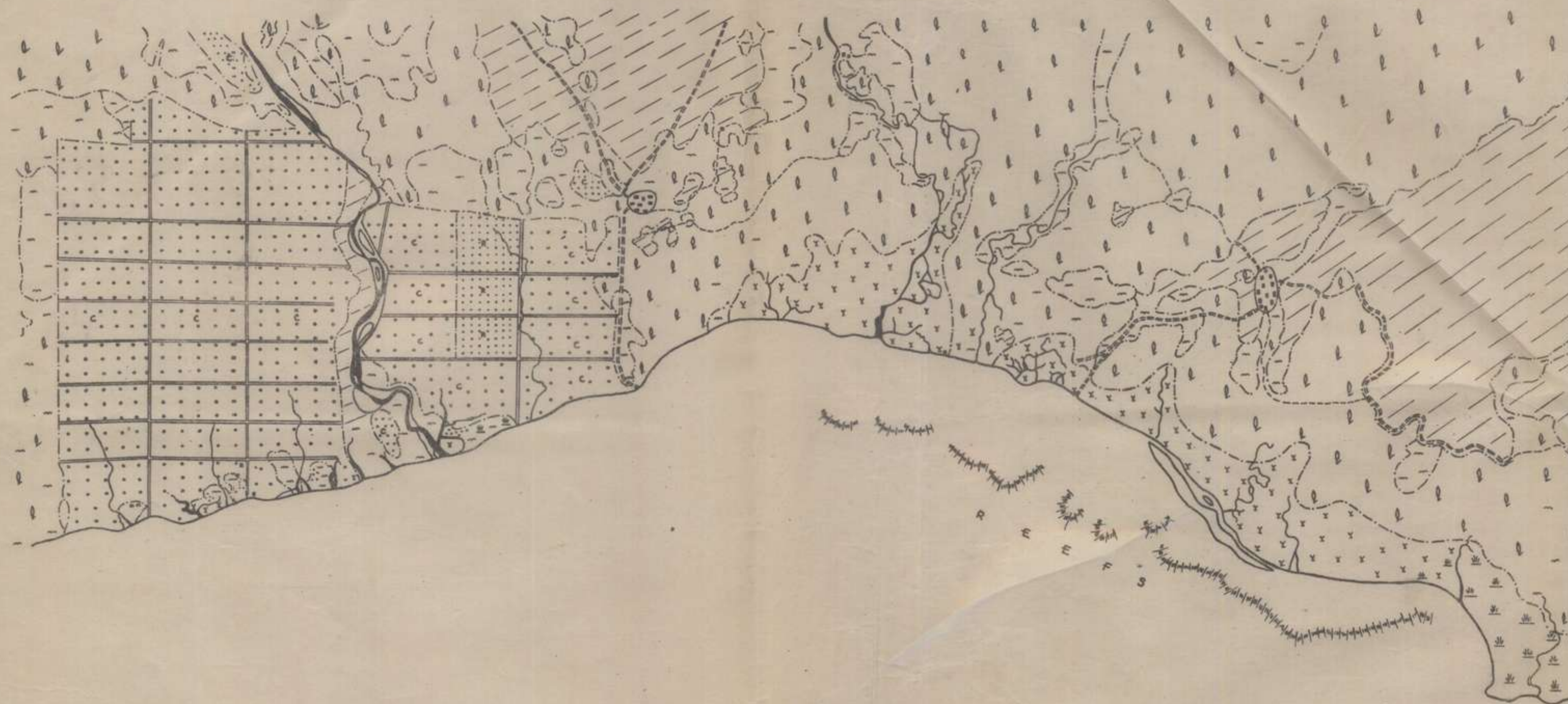
APPY G 4. SQUADRON

- OPERATION "POSTERN" - TRACE SHEWING BEACH MAINTENANCE AREA  
AND LIMIT OF ESB RESPONSIBILITY ON RED BEACH  
& ALTERNATIVE ON YELLOW BEACH:

- Ref Map Compiled from Air Photos -

LEGEND	
	LIMIT OF BEACH MAINT. AREA DITTO ALTERNATIVE
	LIMIT OF ESB RESPONSIBILITY DITTO ALTERNATIVE
	BEACH SIG STR (S 10 N10)





LEGEND	
	RAIN FOREST
	COCONUT PTN
	RUBBER
	KUNAI
	SWAMP
	TRACKS
	POSSIBLE TRACKS
	REEFS
	RIVERS
	DRAINS
	LOW SCRUB







135/88/53

MOST SECRET

Appx "P" to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 1

OPERATION POSTERN

Addenda to 9 Aust Div Operation Order No 1

1. Support of Landing - Aircraft smoke

~~Para 16 (b) is cancelled. Smoke will NOT be used.~~

2. Beach Defence:

Ref para 17 -

Formations and units undertaking defence of any beach after D Day will observe the following instructions :-

- (a) An officer will be appointed Beach Def Comd controlling all weapons in the beach area capable of firing seaward.
- (b) The Beach Def Comd will have under his control one Sig Det which is capable of challenging vessels in the manner laid down, and will have a copy of the current Recognition Signals. Where necessary "clear the line" calls may be used for controlling fire.
- (c) Fire will NOT be opened except on a prearranged signal from the Beach Def Comd.

3. Defence against enemy naval bombardment BY NIGHT will be based primarily on strict blackout and passive defence.

4. BY NIGHT fire will be opened on enemy small craft and barges close inshore (i.e. within range of SLs - approx 1000 yds) at direction of Beach Def Comd.

5. Defence of RED BEACH

Additional troops with 20 Aust Inf Bde :-

- (a) Officers to assist in organisation and control of beach defence -
  - From RAA 9 Aust Div - Capt SEABERT, 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
  - From 2/2 Aust MG Bn - Capt GREEN and two other officers.
- (b) Under comd :-
  - 2 SL dets to be operated by personnel provided by Comd AEME
  - 6 x 37 mm guns and 6 x 30 calibre LMGs of 532 Gp 2 ESB
- (c) In support :-
  - one tp 2/12 Aust Lt AA Bty

6. Communications for Beach Defence will be arranged by CO Sigs 9 Aust Div.

7. Naval Bombardment

Ref para 31 :

- (a) Timing for Naval Bombardment is :
  - H minus 11 mins to ) while Wave 1 is proceeding from APDs
  - H minus 5 mins ) to 1300 yds from the shore.
- (b) Ammunition allowance - 240 rounds per ship.
- (c) Naval gunfire will be available to support troops ashore until approx H plus 6 hrs D Day.



8. Air Support

Ref para 32, add -

- (h) Recce to detect approach of enemy naval forces in CONVICTION
- (i) Air patrol over enemy air routes from SOMNAMBULIST and PIPSQUEAK to supplement air warning system.
- (j) Anti-submarine patrol in daylight around all troop carrying craft north of CAPE WARD HUNT.

9. Location of HQs Afloat

Ref para 38 :

Name of HQ Ship - USS CONYNGHAM  
Name of Relief HQ Ship USS FLUSSER

10. R/T Codeword

Ref Appx "H" para 4 (a.)

Codeword for R/T Code No 2 - LADENGIFTSOR/W ✓

11. Staging Areas

Ref para 9 :

6 LSTs comprised in Landing Gp One will NOT beach nor disembark troops at CHIVALRY. ✓

12. Timetable - Embarkation of Landing Group Three

Ref 9 Aust Div Operation Order No 3 para 6

Amend to read :

18 LCI	0900 hrs D Plus 1	1030 hrs D Plus 1	2245 hrs D Plus 1
6 LST	0530 hrs D Plus 1	0900 hrs D Plus 1	0100 hrs D Plus 2

*amended 20*

DISTRIBUTION :

POSTERN List Z less serials 12, 25, 26, 27, 30.



128/88/35

MOST SECRET

Subject: Standard Operational Maps.

9 Aust Div  
27 Aug 43  
I.128/47/1

1. Maps of the operational area are not consistently gridded.  
They are as under :-

- (a) 1/63360 Sheets NADZAB, LAE, MONGI RIVER - US Provisional Grid.
- (b) 1/25000 Sheets NADZAB, HEATHS, MUNIM, LAE, BUSO, HOPOI - Aust Grid.

2. Owing to the fact that full issue of all relevant 1/25000 sheets cannot be guaranteed before D, scale discriminants will be given with all map references.

DISTRIBUTION:

POSTERN Distribution List Y less serials 13, 17, 30.

*R. H. Jones* Maj  
for Lt Col  
GS

to - *Luo.*  
adpt. *Fair*



MOST SECRET

Copy No 7

28 Aug 43

OPERATION "POSTERN"

2/2 AUST M.G. BN OPERATION ORDER No 1

Ref Maps - 1163360 APPARITION-BINOCULAR Series  
Air Photo Trace issued as Appx A.

INFORMATION

1. Verbal.

INTENTION

2. (a) 2/2 Aust MG Bn will assist in unloading craft and clearing the Far Beach.
- (b) They will be prepared to defend the Div Maintenance Area.
- (c) They will be prepared to assist inf bns in the operation.
- (d) They will be required to give beach defence on the left flank of the attack.

METHOD

3. Movement from PENNIGAN to Far Beach will be as detailed hereunder :

(a) Assembly and Embarkation Table - Vehs and Stores

	B Coy	C Coy	D Coy	A Coy	Bn HQ/HQ Coy
Serial No.	12	13	14	15	16
Craft No. Army REG	141	142	143	144	145
Craft	LST	LST	LST	LST	LST
Day	30 Aug	30 Aug	30 Aug	31 Aug	31 Aug
Assembly Area	U	V	W	U	V
Assembly " arrive	0630	0700	0730	0630	0700
Embarkation :					
Beach No	1	1	1	1	1
Ramp No	2	3	4	2	3
Craft beaches at	0730	0730	0730	0730	0730
Loading begins at	0830	0830	0830	0830	0830
Estimated finish	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800

(b) Embarkation Timetable - Personnel

	B Coy	C Coy	D Coy	A Coy	Bn HQ/HQ Coy
Craft		As	above		
Day	2 Sep	2 Sep	2 Sep	2 Sep	2 Sep
Assembly Area	A	B	C	A	B
Assembly Time	0715	0715	0715	0845	0845
Embarkation :					
Beach No	1	1	1	1	1
Ramp No	2	3	4	2	3
Time	0800	0800	0800	0930	0930
Est. time finish	0845	0845	0845	1015	1015

(c) Loading Table

Craft No 141:

OC Troops - Capt P.R.K; Staniland (2/2 Aust MG Bn)  
Loading Offr - Lieut Ferguson (2/2 Aust MG Bn)  
Formation or unit - HQ 9 Aust Div (38 pers)  
A Coy 2/1 HQ Gd Bn (16)  
2/4 Aust Ind Coy (52)  
RAA 9 Aust Div (72)  
RAE 9 Aust Div (39)  
Sigs 9 Aust Div (40)  
2/2 Aust MG Bn  
(B Coy) (135)  
Pro Coy (23)  
B Sec PSW (7)



(1a)

Craft No 141 (cont)

Vehicles : Jeeps 2 2/2 A st HQ Bn  
Tractors, arty 3 RAA 9 Aust Div  
3-ton 10 (stores) RAB 9 Aust Div  
5 (asn) B Sec POW  
Misc 3 semi-trailers RAB 9 Aust Div  
1 compressor " "  
1 mob pile-driver " "

Guns : 40mm 3 2 RAA 9 Aust Div

Milk stores : Saps 37 tons HQ 9 Aust Div  
ASN 30 tons A Coy 2/1 Bn 6d Bn  
POL 17 tons 2/4 Aust Indep Coy

Ramp No : 2

Dumping to be completed by : 1800 hrs 30 Aug



MOST SECRET  
2/2 Aust MG Bn  
29 Aug 43

OPERATION POSTERN

AMENDMENT No 1 - 2/2 AUST M G BN O.O. No 1

Para 3 (c)

Craft No 142

Delete Ramp No 4  
Substitute Ramp No 3

Craft No 144

OC Troops - Delete Lieut PARRY (HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde)  
Substitute Capt DAVIES (2/15 Aust Inf Bn)

*F. A. Varley* Capt.  
(F.A. Varley)  
Adj. 2/2 Aust MG Bn



~~Vehs: Craft No 141 (cont)~~

~~Ramp No : 3~~  
~~Formation : 3~~

~~Dumping to be completed by 1800 hrs 30 Aug.~~

Craft No 142

OC Troops - Capt NICHOLAS (2/2 Aust MG Bn)  
 Loading Offr - Lieut ARMSTRONG (2/2 Aust MG Bn)  
 Formation or unit - HQ 9 Aust Div (29 pers)  
 A Coy 2/1 HQ Gd Bn (15)  
 2/4 Aust Ind Coy (38)  
 RAA 9 Aust Div (40)  
 RAE 9 Aust Div (38)  
 2/17 Aust Inf Bn (35)  
 C Coy, 2/2 Aust MG Bn (135)  
 sigs 9 Aust Div (40)  
 Medical (19)  
 2/118 Aust Bde w/shops (29)

Vehicles : Jeeps - 6 (RAA 9 Aust Div)  
 2 (2/2 MG Bn)

Tractors  
 arty 5 (RAA 9 Aust Div)

3-ton 10 (stores) (RAE 9 Aust Div)  
 1 (breakdown) )  
 1 (welding) ) 2/118 Aust Bde w/shops  
 1 (stores) )  
 3 (amm) )

Misc. 3 semi-trailers, 1 trailer elec., 1 mob pile-driver  
 (RAE 9 Aust Div)

Guns : 25-pdr 1 )  
 1 (lt) ) RAA 9 Aust Div  
 40 mm 2 )

Bulk stores : Sups 38 tons (HQ 9 Aust Div)  
 Amm 29 tons (A Coy, 2/1 HQ Gd Bn)  
 POL 17 tons (RAA 9 Aust Div)

Ramp No - 4

Dumping to be completed by : 1800 hrs 30 Aug.

Craft No 143

OC Troops - Capt O'CONNOR (2/4 Aust Indep Coy)  
 Loading Offr - Lieut W.R.S. WEBSTER (2/12 Aust FA Regt)  
 Formation or unit - HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde (12 pers)  
 HQ 2/13 Aust Inf Bn (16 )  
 2/4 Aust Indep Coy (40)  
 RAA 9 Aust Div (49)  
 RAE 9 Aust Div (96)  
 D Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn (135)  
 Aust Mil Landing Gp (5)

Vehicles : Jeeps -  
 Tractors, arty 3 (RAA 9 Aust Div)  
 3-ton 1 (breakdown) (RAA 9 Aust Div)  
 9 (stores) (RAE 9 Aust Div)  
 5 (medical) (Aust Mil Landing Gp)  
 Misc 3 semi-trailers RAE 9 Aust Div  
 1 R Loading w/shop " "  
 1 trailer electric " "  
 1 trailer welding " "



Craft No 143 (cont)

Guns : 25 pdr 1 lt RAA 9 Aust Div  
 1 " "  
 40 mm 1 " "  
 Bulk stores : Sups 38 tons Hq 20 Aust Inf Bde  
 Amm 29 tons Hq 2/13 Aust Inf Bn  
 POL 17 tons 2/4 Aust Indep Coy

Ramp No : 4

Dumping to be completed by : 30 Aug, 1800 hrs.

Craft No 144

CG Troops : Lieut PARRY (Hq 24 Aust Inf Bde)  
 Loading Offr : Lieut KEAST (2/12 Aust Inf Bde)  
 Formation or unit- Hq 20 Aust Inf Bde (10 pers)  
 2/13 Aust Inf Bn (28)  
 2/15 Aust Inf Bn (35)  
 Hq 24 Aust Inf Bde (4)  
 2/28 Aust Inf Bn (2)  
 2/32 Aust Inf Bn (2)  
 RAA 9 Aust Div (20)  
 RAB 9 Aust Div (30)  
 A Coy, 2/2 MG Bn (135)  
 AASO 9 Aust Div (78)  
 Medical (43)

Vehicles : Jeeps - 18 AASO 9 Aust Div  
 Trailers 18 " "  
 Tractors, arty - 3 RAA 9 Aust Div  
 3-ton - 12 (stores) RAB 9 Aust Div  
 5 (med) Medical  
 Misc - 1 compressor RAB 9 Aust Div

XXI Guns : 25 pdr - 2 RAA 9 Aust Div  
 40mm 1 " "

Bulk stores - Sups - Hq 20 Aust Inf Bde (38 tons)  
 Amm - 29 tons 2/13 Aust Inf Bn  
 POL - 17 tons 2/15 Aust Inf Bn

Ramp No : 2

Dumping to be completed by 1200 hrs 31 Aug

Craft No 145

CG Troops - Lt-Col M. MACARTHUR GUNLOW (2/2 Aust MG Bn)  
 Loading Offr - Lieut HOKHAM (2/2 Aust MG Bn)  
 Formation or unit- 2/4 Aust Indep Coy (40 pers)  
 RAA 9 Aust Div (31)  
 RAB 9 Aust Div (44)  
 2/2 Aust MG Bn (115)  
 (Bn Hq & HQ Coy)  
 2/3 Aust Inf Bn (85)  
 Medical (71)  
 2/118 Aust Bde W/shop (24)

Vehicles : Jeeps 2 2/3 Aust Inf Bn  
 1 2/118 Aust Bde W/shops  
 Tractors, arty 4 RAA 9 Aust Div  
 3-ton 2 (unit eqpt) 2/4 Aust Indep Coy  
 14 (stores) RAB 9 Aust Div  
 2 (unit eqpt) 2/2 Aust MG Bn  
 2 (medical stores) Medical  
 1 (machine shop) 2/118 Aust Bde W/shops



(4)

Craft No 145 (cont)

Vehicles : Misc - 1 Plough RAN 9 Aust Div  
Guns : 25 pdr X 2 RAA 9 Aust Div  
          340 mm 2 " "  
          2 pdr 1 2/3 Aust Inf Bn  
Bulk stores - Saps 38 tons 2/4 Aust Indep Coy  
              App 29 tons RAA 9 Aust Div  
              POL 17 tons RAA 9 Aust Div  
Ramp No : 3  
Dumping to be completed by 1200 hrs 31 Aug.

(d) Convoy Movement Schedule

Serial 3 - 6 LST (Nos 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146)  
2,417 personnel

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Day</u>
Leave PERMICO	1400 hrs	D minus 2
Arr. CHIVALRY	1530 hrs	D minus 1
Leave CHIVALRY	0900 hrs	D Day
Arr. Far Shore	0130 hrs	D plus 1

Meals required at CHIVALRY - 2

- (a) If possible hot meal at CHIVALRY and PORTICO before re-embarking
- (b) If HGF postpones operation, further meals required at CHIVALRY and PORTICO.

(e) Loading Tables showing detailed loading of each craft will be issued separately to loading officers and coys concerned.

4. Control of Embarkation

- (a) Embarkation will be controlled by an Embarkation Staff, who will wear distinguishing WHITE armbands. Their instructions will be strictly followed.
- (b) Embarkation Staff will man the following :
  - (i) Traffic Control Posts (TCP) at -  
437 432 and 437 448 (No 1 Beach)  
436 447 (No 2 Beach)
  - (ii) Control Centre at hut 439449 (No 1 Beach)

5. Assembly and Loading of Vechs and Stores

- (a) Bulk stores for LCT and LST are being dumped and loaded under Q arrangements.
- (b) The following have already been issued :
  - (i) Instrs for marshalling, control and loading of vechs.
  - (ii) Diagram showing assembly areas, loading slips, traffic routes and TCPs.
- (c) Coys will ensure that before leaving unit lines :
  - (i) Vechs have the wave number of the craft in which they are to embark clearly marked on the windscreen.
  - (ii) Drivers are in possession of a slip showing :
    - assembly area (by letter)
    - wave number of craft
    - number of loading slip at which to embark.
- (d) All vechs will have skid chains on all wheels and will be properly water-proofed.
- (e) In the assembly area, skid chains will be adjusted, waterproofing will be checked, and lights and horns will be disconnected.



## 6. Assembly and Embarkation of Personnel

- (a) Instructions and diagrams showing organisation of assembly areas and control centres have already been issued.
- (b) Coy Comds or senior combatant offr will be OC det on craft.. OaC detachments will report to OC Troops of their craft on arrival in the assembly area to receive his instructions.
- (c) Coys will forward, through En, to reach OC Troops 48 hours before the time of embarkation, a nominal roll of their detachments travelling in the respective ships.

## 7. OC Troops

Officers appointed as OaC troops in each craft are shown above. OaC troops will carry out the duties set out in "Standing Orders for OaC Troops" issued separately.

## 8. Loading Offrs

- (a) Loading offrs for LST and LCT are appointed as shown above.
- (b) They will carry out the "Duties of Loading Officers" issued separately.
- (c) Loading offrs are responsible for the assembly and loading of vehs and stores under the direction of the Embarkation staff.

## 9. Staging Areas

- (a) Times of arrival and departure at staging areas CHIVALRY and PORTICO are shown above.
- (b) Troops will disembark at staging areas under orders to be issued later, will be given hot meals under 2 arrangements, and will subsequently re-embark under orders from OaC Troops.
- (c) Embarkation Staff will assist OaC troops in re-embarkation.

10. H Hour, which will be notified later, will be the time the leading craft hit the beach.

11. D Day will be notified later.

## 12. Rations

- (a) For Ops:
 

Fd Op	2
Emergency dehydrated	3

 These rations will NOT be consumed on voyage other than in an emergency, and then only by orders of OC Tps of respective ships.
- (b) Tps on LSTs - 4 meals.
- (c) The following special ration has been arranged :
  - Tinned sausages (as available)
  - M & V
  - Dehydrated mutton (as available)
  - Tinned fruit
  - Tinned milk
  - Margarine
  - Bread
  - Tea
  - Sugar
  - Curry
  - Salt
- (d) These rations will be drawn by En by arrangement with AASC and will be placed on board respective craft under unit arrangements.
- (e) GTF 76 has been requested to make available to tps on every ship the use of ship's galley. No finality has been reached, but it is anticipated that there will be no difficulty. It will be necessary for Coys to allot cooks as far as possible. The use of hot boxes should be explored, particularly for the last meal on voyage, which may be difficult to prepare on voyage and distribute on some ships owing to blackout restrictions. Hot boxes could be prepared at CHIVALRY for final meal before H hour.



13. Water

Water is available on ships for drinking only. Personnel will land with water bottles full.

14. Amn

First line amn will be carried by Coys.

15. Eqpt

(a) Personnel will embark fully equipped.

(b) Packs will be carried on the men. Difficulty in dumping packs in the Maintenance Area may be experienced. Personnel may have to manhandle packs on Far Beach, as transport difficulties are expected to be great.

(c) It is essential that guards be placed on any dumps of Unit or personal eqpt.

16. Blankets

(a) Not more than one per man. Remainder to be returned to 4 AOD by arrangement ADOS 9 Aust Div.

(b) Stocks of blankets will be carried in div res.

17. Mosquito Nets and Repellent

(a) Will be carried on men.

(b) Prior to leaving CHIVALRY all ranks will treat their clothing with mosquito repellent, vide att instr. (Appx B)

18. Offrs Valises

To Div store PERMANENT if not fwd to CHIVALRY earlier.

19. Waterproofing - Arms, Vehs, Sig Eqpt

Will be carried out in accordance with practice developed in AUSTRALIA to the extent that available materials will allow.

19. Vehs

Attention of OC Troops and Loading Offrs is directed to paras 12 & 14, 9 Aust Div Adm Order No 2.

20. Coverage for Stores

(a) Stores liable to damage by water will be covered in dumps or when carried as deck cargo.

(b) Tentage used for this purpose MUST be painted or oiled.

21. Medical

(a) Hygiene on voyage -

(i) Pers liable to seasickness will take every opportunity of lying down during voyage.

(ii) Tps taking part in landing ops will drink a large quantity of fluid towards end of voyage. This precaution may assist in the recovery of men wounded during or soon after landing.

(b) Casualties during voyage - Evacuation for first part of voyage, to CHIVALRY. Second part of voyage, to beach medical post.

22. Disembarkation Far Shore

(a) Clearance of Beach - All ranks will be impressed with necessity for avoiding interference with clearance of craft. Cross traffic must be reduced to minimum, and kept off the beach where possible.

(b) Clearance of Tps from LST -

(i) All tps, less those responsible for vehs in the craft, arriving in LST will on landing immediately move 100 yds directly inland, led by inf bn dets of 26 Aust Inf Bde, and form up.

(ii) All personnel will be led by dets of 26 Aust Inf Bde to TCP at north end of COCONUT PLANTATION.



- (iii) At TGP unit will be met by unit guides and directed to their assembly areas.
- (iv) Routes and probable location of assembly areas are shown in trace att. (Appx A)

23. 2/2 Aust MG Bn will be prepared immediately to supply labour for unloading bulk stores, as required by MLO.

#### ADM

24. Casualties to Warlike Stores will be notified to Bn HQ by quickest means direct from Coy concerned.

#### 25. Medical

- (a) Malaria Control - Anti-malarial precautions will be enforced to the fullest extent. The area in which the unit will be operating is potentially highly malarious, and a high casualty rate can be expected if efforts to combat malaria are not sustained.
- (b) Mosquito nets must accompany casualties to medical installations.
- (c) Water - (i) Irrespective of appearance of water it will not be used until sterilised.  
(ii) Care will be taken not to foul streams. Early action will be taken by units bivouaced near streams to patrol stream above WP.

26. Returns- Instructions given verbally.

#### 27. P.W.

- (a) Div cage will be established initially in Maint Area. Guards as required will be provided by 2/2 Aust MG Bn.
- (b) Bdes are responsible for holding P W in own areas and for providing escorts to Div cage.

#### 28. Postal

- (a) 9 Aust Div Postal Unit will be established in div maint area. Mail will be sent fwd by most expeditious means to bde, etc dumps. Outwards mail will be collected at dumps.
- (b) If stamps are not available mail will be delivered by AIR throughout Australia if envelope is endorsed "AIR MAIL - NO STAMPS AVAILABLE".
- (c) Such endorsements as "FIGHT LINE MAIL" and "IN FORWARD AREAS" or similar phrases are forbidden.
- (d) HQ 9 Aust Div has directed that before mail is delivered to addressees in action in future ops, the distinguishing number of the Unit address will be cut out of the covers. For instance, the figures "2/2" will be cut out of the envelope before the letter is delivered to the addressee by Coys. Similarly, if an article is addressed to "2/2 Aust MG Bn, 9 Aust Div", the figures "2/2" and "9" will be excised.
- (e) This Unit has been allotted a special Symbol Number, 81, which will be pencilled on the bottom right-hand corner of every article at the time the excision is made. Should any article then be returned to the FPO without circulating through the Unit Postal Orderly, the FPO will be in a position to identify the unit by the Symbol Number, and will ensure that the unit name is endorsed on the cover of the article before disposing of it.

#### 29. Canteens

- (a) A canteen bulk store carrying limited supplies will be established in Div Maint Area by B plus 3.
- (b) Items stocked will be based on following scale per man per week:
 

3 ounces tobacco	Half lb chocolate
2 pkts cigarette papers	Barley sugar if procurable
2 boxes waterproof matches	Toothpaste and soap in proportion- etc quantities.



- (c) Coys will demand for items available, demands to have endorsed on them the current fighting strength.
- (d) Immediate payment will not be required by canteen services, but Coys ultimately will be responsible for payment of goods purchased.

### 30. Traffic Control

- (a) Report centres will be established by DAFN at -  
Beach Signal Centre BRD BEACH by H plus 10 D day.  
North end of coconut plantation BRD BEACH by H plus 105 D day.
- (b) Beach will be kept clear of stragglers, and Coys will not under any circumstance unnecessarily move along beach.

31. Stragglers - Personnel will not be allowed out of unit areas unless they are carrying APW 3118 (or substitute) or a duty pass.

### 32. Disposal of Personal Eqp of Casualties

- (a) Personal eqpt (i.e., clothing necessities, respirators, arms, web eqpt and helmet) of casualties will be disposed of as follows.
- (b) Personnel evacuated from units to ADS etc -
  - (i) Clothing necessities, helmet, respirator, will accompany the man to a Pd AMS and during the whole period he is away from his unit.
  - (ii) Web eqpt and arms, if not required by Coy, will be treated as salvage. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
  - (iii) Amm on personal issue will be removed from the man's possession before leaving Aid Post.
  - (iv) In all cases in which personnel are evacuated direct to camp or general hospitals, clothing necessities, steel helmet, and respirator will accompany the man. Arms and web eqpt will be retained by unit QM and returned to ADOS dump 9 Aust Div.

### 33. Security

- (a) The utmost secrecy will be maintained in planning and execution of these operations.
- (b) The contents of this order, but only as much of it as is necessary, will be made known only to those who require knowledge of it.
- (c) Discretion will be used in marking of maps and diagrams, and in the carrying of classified documents.
- (d) The operations will not be discussed in the presence of unauthorized persons and no mention made other than by MOST SECRET means.
- (e) Care will be paid to conversation in messes, quarters and tpt vans, and particularly in the presence of natives. Most natives know some English and some do carry the news to the enemy.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

### INTERCOMM

- 34. (a) During the voyage wireless silence will be observed by all military sets. Intercomm will be through naval signal channels.
- (b) Probable location of HQs after landing - See trace att, Appx A.
- (c) Sigs 9 Aust Div will arrange for units on L of C to "tee in" on the line to obtain info of progress by fwd tps.
- (d) Attention of Sig Offr is directed to Appx H, 9 Aust Div O.C. No 1, showing line diagram ashore, and W/T diagram.



35. ACKNOWLEDGE

*F.A. Varley* Capt.

(F.A. Varley)  
Adj., 2/2 Aust MG Bn

Time of signature

hrs

Distributed byDISTRIBUTIONCopy No

1  
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9  
10

Hq Coy

A Coy

B Coy

C Coy

D Coy

Comd

Adj. &amp; War Diary

Q.M.

War Diary



MOSQUITO REPELLENT LOTION FOR PREVENTION OF SCRUB ITCH & SCRUB TYPHUS

1. To treat clothing, the lotion should be poured into a flat tin so that fingers may be dipped into it and a thin film made by rubbing the hands together. The film is then transferred to the inner aspect of garments by rubbing the moistened hands quickly over this inner surface, trying to cover about one square foot of cloth before it becomes necessary to dip the fingers again. The aim should be an even distribution without missing out any patch.
2. Shirt cuffs, trouser bottoms to 12 in above ankle, and waistbands must be turned inside out before lotion is applied in the manner described above. Socks need a more thorough impregnation. A rubbing and washing action must be employed using nearly one teaspoonful of lotion to each pair.
3. In very wet weather it is desirable that the lotion be applied rather more liberally. The application is tedious and occupies possibly 10 mins to carry out, but it MUST be done efficiently. G.O. ops are responsible that efficient treatment of clothing is carried out.
4. The application must be repeated after five days.



RETURNS - 9

When supp etc dumps are formed off: 1/c dump will render a return to "Q"  
9 Aust Div daily by 1900 hrs showing stock posn as at 1800 hrs the same  
day. Code as shown below will be used :

CODE	ITEM
A	White pers
B	Natives
C	White rations (complete)
D	Native rations (complete)
E	SAA 303 Bdr
F	" " CTE
G	" " Tracer
H	" " Incendiary
J	" " Strip belt
K	330 Pistol
L	9 mm SMG
M	.55 Tk A Rifle
N	Pistols Sigs Cart Illum
O	" " " Red
P	" " " Green
Q	MOR 3" HE
R	" 3" SMOK
S	" 2" HE
T	" " SMOK
U	" " ILLUM
V	" " " RED
W	" " " GREEN
X	2 pdr Tk A A P
Y	" " HE
Z	6 pr Tk A
2A	Bofors HE
2B	Bofors SAP
2C	Bofors Special
2D	25 pr HE
2E	" AP
2F	" SMOK
2G	" Ctte Normal
2H	" " Super
2J	Grease 36 4 sec
2K	" " 37 sec
2L	" 63
2M	" 69
2N	" 75
2P	TENG 450
2R	Rifles 303
2T	OWENS SMG
2U	Pistols 38
2V	Rifles .55 Tk A
2W	Tk A Gun 2 pr
2X	Tk A Gun 6 pr
2Y	25 pr Light
2Z	25 pr Hy
3A	Jeeps
3B	Lorries 3 ton
3C	Trousers KD or 36
3D	Shirts " "
3E	Sets underclothing
3F	Blankets
3G	Boots prs
3H	Laces prs
3J	Sox prs
3K	



1 Sep 43

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

BEACH DEFENCE

1. Sub-units undertaking defence of any beach after D day will observe the following instructions:
  - (a) An officer will be appointed Beach Def Comd controlling all weapons in the beach area capable of firing seaward.
  - (b) The Beach Def Comd will have under his control one Sig Det which is capable of challenging vessels in the manner laid down, and will have a copy of the current Recognition Signals. Where necessary "clear the line" calls may be used for controlling fire.
  - (c) Fire will NOT be opened except on a prearranged signal from the Beach Def Comd.
2. Defence against enemy naval bombardment BY NIGHT will be based primarily on strict blackout and passive defence.
3. BY NIGHT fire will be opened on enemy small craft and barges close inshore (i.e., within range of SLs - approx 1000 yds) at direction of Beach Def Comd.
4. Defence of RED BEACH

Additional troops with 20 Aust Inf Bde -

  - (a) Offrs to assist in organisation and control of beach defence :  
From RAA 9 Aust Div - Capt SEAHERT 2/12 Aust Fd Regt  
From 2/2 Aust MG Bn - T/Maj GREEN and 2 other offrs
  - (b) Under comd :-  
2 SL dets to be operated by personnel provided by Comd AENE  
6 x 37mm guns and 6 x 30 calibre LMGs of 532 Gp 2BSB.
  - (c) In support :-  
one tp 2/12 Aust Lt AA Bty.
5. Comms for Beach Defence will be arranged by CO Sigs 9 Aust Div.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY AND LOADING OF VEHICLES

EQUIPMENT AND STORES.

(Issued in conjunction with 2/2 Aust MG Bn O O No 1).

1. These instructions do not apply to dumping of stores at ramps for bulk loading of LCTs and LSTs.

2. Embarkation staff will establish -

No 1 Beach Control Centre at 440 ~~451~~ 451  
(429 452)  
TOPs at (437 448)

No 2 Beach Control Centre at 436 446  
(429 450)  
TOPs at (435 447)

3. The orders of the embarkation staff will be obeyed implicitly.

4. The drivers of all vehicles despatched by units to assembly areas will have a slip showing :-

- (a) assembly area letter
- (b) craft number on which he loads.
- (c) ramp number at which craft beaches.

5. Duties of Loading Officer

(a) Prior to embarkation he will -

- (i) be in possession of list of vehicles and sleds to be loaded on his ship,
- (ii) have a loading plan for his ship <sup>from</sup>
- (iii) recon a vehicle assembly area and marshalling plan at least 24hrs before loading,
- (iv) be responsible for assembly and marshalling of all vehicles and sleds for his craft into their loading sequence.
- (v) report to Embarkation Officer at Control Centre at the time scheduled for his ship to beach,
- (vi) arrange for reps to be located -  
one at vehicle assembly area;  
one on track leading to ship's ramp,  
one on the ship supervising loading.
- (vii) ensure that vehicles in the assembly area have the number of the craft and the number of the vehicle in the order of loading marked clearly on the windscreen, e.g. 123/30 is the 30th vehicle to load in ship number 123.
- (viii) ensure that all vehicles have skid chains on tyres and are waterproofed.
- (ix) ensure that the captain of the ship agrees with his loading plan.
- (x) ensure that vehicles in assembly area have horns and lights disconnected.

(b) During Loading -

- (i) as far as possible ensure that all perishable stores are covered from weather,
- (ii) ensure that all vehicles, stores and equipment are lashed or secured to prevent damage due to movement,
- (iii) report to Embarkation Officer when loading is completed.

(c) During voyage -

ensure that necessary maintenance is done on vehicles and equipment. Engines will not be started up after personnel embark except as ordered in para 5 (a) (ii).

(d) Prior to Disembarkation he will ensure that

- (i) batteries of all vehicles are tested
- (ii) engines are warmed up at UNIVALEY after personnel disembark and at the far shore after the doors are opened on approach to the beach.
- (iii) all drivers know their unloading sequence.

(e) On arrival at far shore -



Duties of Landing Officer (Cont)

(g) On arrival at Far Shore -

- (i) liaise with beach organisation prior to unloading vehicles
- (ii) organise and supervise clearance of vehicles and equipment from craft.
- (iii) ensure that vehicles and equipment are sent to correct destinations as directed by MLO.

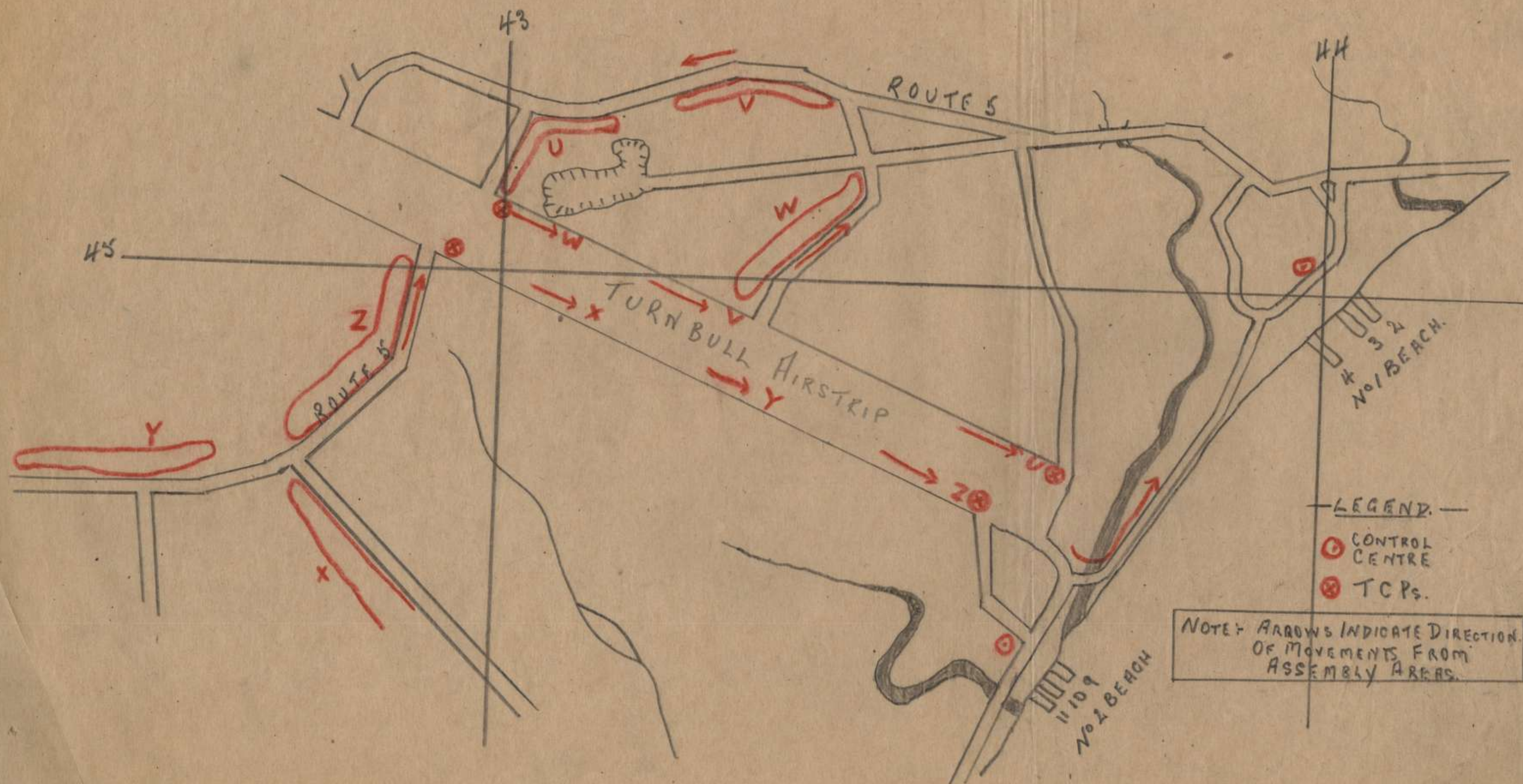
DISTRIBUTION :

HQ	1
A	2
B	3
C	4
D	5
COMM	6
ADJT	7
WAR DIARY	
CH	8



— OPERATION POSTERN —  
— VEHICLE ASSEMBLY AREAS —  
SCALE 1:6250

MOST SECRET



— LEGEND —

- ⊙ CONTROL CENTRE
- ⊗ TCPs.

NOTE: ARROWS INDICATE DIRECTION OF MOVEMENTS FROM ASSEMBLY AREAS.



OPERATION POSTERN

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY AND EMBARKATION OF PERSONNEL

(Issued in conjunction with 2/2 Aust MG Bn Operation Order No 1)

1. Embarkation Control Centre will be located at
 

(a) No 1 Beach - Beach Control Centre subsidiary Control Centres	Hut    438 449 (1)    ramp 3 (11)   ramp 6
(b) No 2 Beach - approx 436 445	
2. Embarkation staff are in sole charge of the beach.
3. OC Troops and OCs dets will make thorough recce of assembly area at least 24 hrs before time of embarkation.
4. All units will ensure that nominal rolls of dets are forwarded to OC Troops 48 hrs before time of embarkation.
5. On arrival in assembly area OCs of all dets will report immediately to OC Troops.
6. All troops carried in MT will debus in aircraft dispersal bays and march to assembly areas.
7. All personnel on board ship prior to personnel embarkation, e.g. drivers of vehicles, will disembark and report to OC Troops in assembly area immediately ship beaches.
8. OC Troops responsibilities
  - (a) Consolidating nominal rolls, by units, for his ship the day before assembly.
  - (b) Hold a co-ordinating conference with OCs of all dets on his ship on the day prior to embarkation.
  - (c) Establishing a Report Centre at the Report Centre Sign in his assembly area.
  - (d) Checking nominal roll.
  - (e) Marshalling of troops into order of embarkation (i.e. order of nominal roll)
  - (f) 15 mins before scheduled time of embarkation an interim report will be made to Control Centre.
  - (g) Passing one copy of nominal roll to Embarkation Staff Representative immediately embarkation is completed.
  - (h) An inspection of ship in case of LSTs and LCI's will be made during loading of vehicles and stores.
  - (i) Berthing plan will be completed before assembly. In the case of LCI's this plan will be quickly checked if necessary with the captain before embarkation.
  - (j) In case of LCI's OC holds will be nominated before assembly and given full instructions.

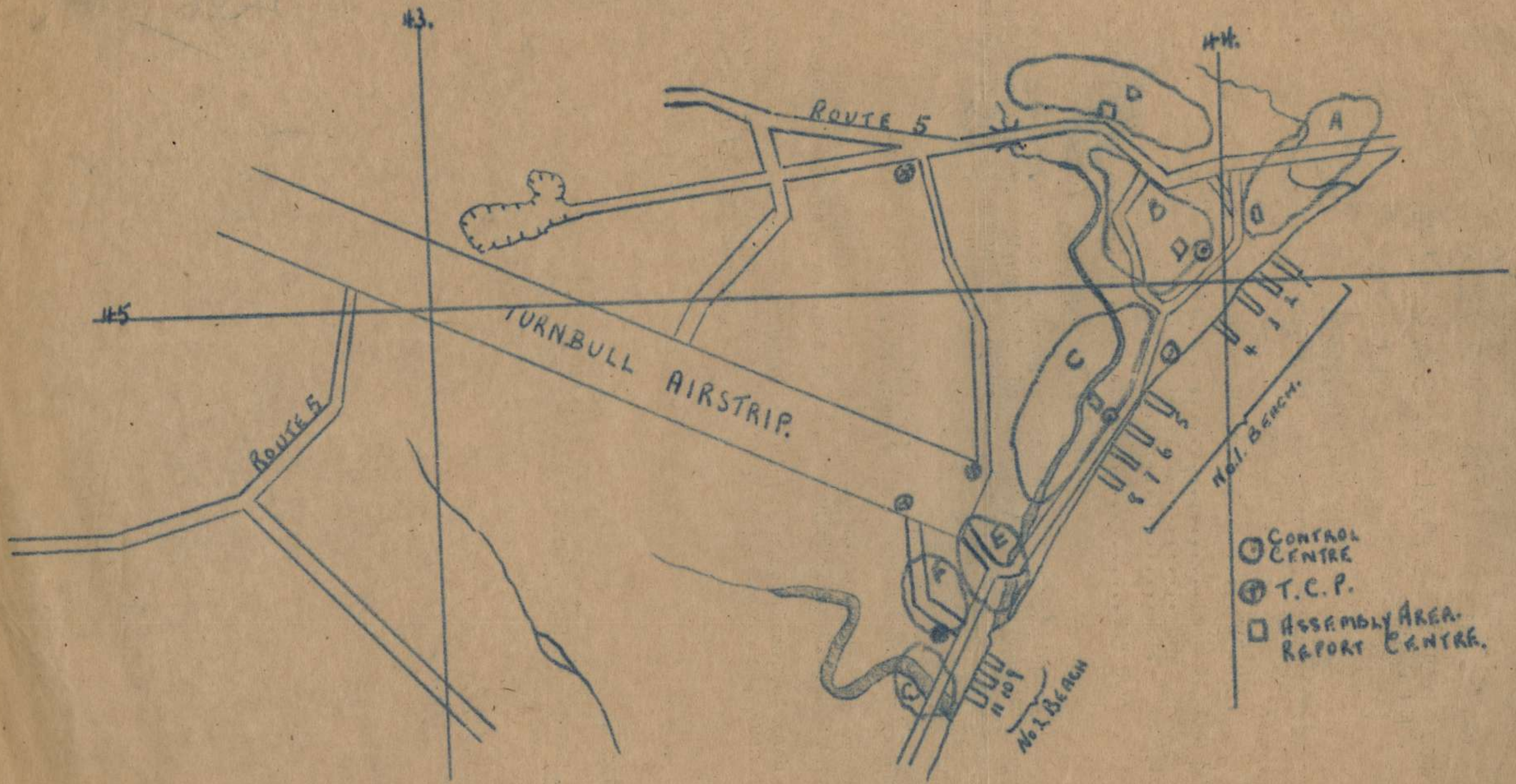
DISTRIBUTION :

HQ	1
A	2
B	3
C	4
D	5
COND	6
ADJT	
WAR DIARY	7
QM	8



— OPERATION POSTERN —  
PERSONNEL ASSEMBLY AREA.  
SCALE 1:6250.

MOST SECRET.





MOST SECRET

Appx "D" to 2/2 MG Bn  
Operation Order No 1

Copy No 6  
31 Aug 43

OPERATION POSTERN  
POSTPONEMENT OF D DAY

1. D Day may be postponed if the weather front DOUBLET-BINOCULAR precludes air co-operation for the landing.
2. 2 Aust Corps is to make the decision by 0600 hrs D minus 1. The following code words will be used to notify postponement of the operation and will be sent in clear :
  - (a) "TOGO repeat TOGO" meaning that the operation is postponed 24 hrs from the original D Day.
  - (b) "BANANA repeat BANANA" to be sent if a further postponement of 24 hrs is essential.
  - (c) "EATER repeat EATER" to be sent if a third postponement of 24 hrs is essential.
  - (d) The above code words will be again used in the above sequence in case of further postponements being necessary.
3. The expected locations of the various echelons of 9 Aust Div and Task Force 76 at 0600 hrs D minus 1 and the means by which the code word will be passed, are shown below :

Landing Group.	Craft	Location	Means of passing code word from 2 AUST CORPS
L.G. One	4 APD	PEMMICAN - due depart 0700 hrs.	Naval channels via CTF 76.
	18 LCI	At sea - arrive CHIVALRY 0800 hrs	Naval channels
	HQ Ship & Relief HQ Ship	" " "	Naval channels
	12 LCT	PORTICO	18 L of C Sigs Office PORTICO & by Naval channel
	6 LST	At sea- arrive CHIVALRY 1000 hrs	Naval channels
-----			
L.G. Two	6 LST	AT sea- arrive CHIVALRY 1530 hrs	Naval channels
-----			
L.G. Three & L O B Gp	-	CHIVALRY	Through Rear HQ 9 Aust Div CHIVALRY



104/88/55  
MOST SECRET

OPERATION POSTERN

9 Aust Div  
26 Aug 43  
GP74/1/-

INDEX TO AND DISTRIBUTION LISTS OF DOCUMENTS

Copy No....7

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Distribution List

9 Aust Div Operation Order No 1 ✓

List Y

Appx "A" - Trace showing Objectives for  
20 Aust Inf Bde

List Z plus 16

" ✓ "B" - 9 Aust Div Order of Battle - D Day

" Y

" ✓ "C" - Trace showing probable locations of:-

(a) HQ ashore of Div, Bdes, ESB, AA

(b) Dump areas in Div Maintenance Area

(c) Medical Installations 9 Aust Div  
and 532 Gp

(d) MLO organisation and TCPs

(e) Unit Assembly Areas

(f) Beach Signal Station

(g) Track Plan

" Z

" ✓ "D" - 9 Aust Div Landing Diagram

" Z

" ✓ "E" - 9 Aust Div Landing Table D Day

" Z

" ✓ "F" - Composition of Landing Groups

" Z

" ✓ "G" - Trace showing :-

(a) Boundary of Beach Maintenance  
Area RED BEACH

(b) Area of ESB responsibility  
RED BEACH

(c) Alternative areas YELLOW BEACH

" Z

" ✓ "H" - Intercommunication Instruction and  
Sig Diagrams

" Y less 9,10

" ✓ "J" - Organisation of 532 Gp 2 ESB

" Y

" "K" - Defences overprint BINOCULAR

" Y

" ✓ "L" - Rainfall Data

" Y

" "M" - Sun and Moon Tables

" Y

" ✓ "N" - Tasks for 4 AC Sqn D Day

" Y less 9,10,18,  
(23,27)

" "O" - Postponement of D Day

" Y

9 Aust Div Operation Order No 2 ✓

List Z

Appx "A" - 9 Aust Div Loading Table - Landing  
Groups One and Two

" Z plus 29 spares

" "B" - Assembly and Embarkation Table -  
Personnel

" Z

" "C" - Assembly and Embarkation Table -  
Vehicles and Stores

" Z

" "D" - Convoy Movement Schedule

" Z

9 Aust Div Operation Order No 3 and Appx "A" ✓

" Z plus serial D

DISTRIBUTION LISTS

Serial	Unit	Copy Nos.	
		List Y	List Z
1.	20 Aust Inf Bde	1	1
2.	24 Aust Inf Bde	2	2
3.	26 Aust Inf Bde	3	3
4.	RAA 9 Aust Div	4	4
5.	RAE 9 Aust Div	5	5
6.	Sigs 9 Aust Div	6	6



<u>Serial</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Copy Nos.</u>	
		<u>List Y</u>	<u>List Z</u>
7.	2/2 Aust MG Bn	7	7
8.	2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	8	8
9.	C Sqn 1 Aust Army Tk Bn	9	-
10.	C Coy PIB	10	-
11.	532 Gp 2 ESB	11-14	11-14
12.	CTF 76 (incl copy for 9 Aust Div LO)	15-18	15-18
13.	Adv Echelon 5 AF	19	-
14.	4 AC Sqn RAAF	20	-
15.	Fighter Control Liaison Sec 5 AF	21	-
16.	Air Support Party 5 AF	22	-
17.	1 Aust Corps (for information)	23	23
18.	4 Aust Inf Bde	24	-
19.	Comd	25	25
20.	G	26-29	26-29
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102/88/55

OPERATION POSTERN

MOST SECRET

9 AUST DIV OPERATION ORDER NO 2

Copy No 7

26 Aug 43

(Issued in conjunction with 9 Aust Div Operation Order No 1)

INTENTION

1. 9 Aust Div Landing Groups One and Two will embark at PEMMICAN and move to far shore via staging areas at CHIVALRY and PORTICO.

METHOD

2. Loading Tables

- (a) Loading tables for all craft are shown at Appx A.
- (b) Loading diagrams showing detailed loading of each craft will be issued separately to loading officers and units concerned. *copy*

3. Control of Embarkation

- (a) Embarkation will be controlled by an Embarkation Staff, who will wear distinguishing WHITE armbands. Their instructions will be strictly followed.
- (b) Embarkation Staff will man the following :-
- (i) Traffic Control Posts (TCPs) at :
- 437 432 and 437 448 (No 1 Beach)  
436 447 (No 2 Beach)
- (ii) Control Centre at :
- hut 439 449 (No 1 Beach)  
track junction 436 445 (No 2 Beach).

4. Assembly and Loading of Vehicles and Stores

- (a) Bulk stores for LCT and LST are being dumped and loaded under Q arrangements.
- (b) The following have already been issued :
- (i) Instructions for marshalling, control and loading of vehicles.
- (ii) Diagram showing assembly areas, loading slips, traffic routes and TCPs.
- (c) Assembly and loading timetable is shown at Appx C.)
- (d) Units will ensure that before leaving unit lines :
- (i) Vehicles have the wave number of the craft in which they are to embark clearly marked on the windscreen.
- (ii) Drivers are <sup>in</sup> possession of a slip showing :
- assembly area (by letter);  
wave number of craft;  
number of loading slip at which to embark.
- (e) All vehicles will have skid chains on all wheels and will be properly waterproofed.



4. Assembly and Loading of Vehicles and Stores (continued)

(f) In the assembly area -

(i) Skid chains will be adjusted.

(ii) Waterproofing will be checked.

(iii) Lights and horns will be disconnected.

5. Assembly and Embarkation of Personnel

(a) Instructions and diagrams showing organisation of assembly areas and control centres have already been issued.

(b) Assembly and embarkation timetable is shown at Appx B.)

(c) [Units will detail an OC for each of their detachments to be embarked.] OSC detachments will report to OC troops of their craft on arrival in the assembly area to receive his instructions.

(d) <sup>conys</sup> Units will forward <sup>through OC,</sup> to reach OC troops 48 hours before the time of embarkation, a nominal roll of their detachments travelling in the respective ships.

6. Concentration of 532 Group

(a) 532 Group ESB is to concentrate under separate arrangements at PORTICO, and move in convoy to land on RED BEACH with Landing Group One on D Day.

(b) Timings for moves of ESB convoy are shown at Appx D.

7. OC Troops

(a) Officers appointed as OSC troops in each craft are shown in Appx A. <sup>above.</sup>

(b) OSC troops will carry out the duties set out in "Standing Orders for OSC Troops" issued separately.

8. Loading Officers

(a) Loading officers for LST and LCT are appointed as shown in ~~Appx A.~~ <sup>above.</sup>

(b) They will carry out the "Duties of Loading Officers" issued separately.

(c) Loading officers are responsible for the assembly and loading of vehicles and stores under the direction of the Embarkation Staff.

9. Staging Areas

(a) Times of arrival and departure at staging areas CHIVALRY and PORTICO are shown in ~~Convoy Movement Schedule at~~ <sup>above.</sup> Appx D.

(b) Troops will disembark at staging areas under orders to be issued later, will be given hot meals under Q arrangements, and will subsequently re-embark under orders from OSC Troops.

(c) Embarkation Staff will assist OSC troops in re-embarkation.

[ (d) Troops in APDs will NOT disembark at CHIVALRY. ]



10. Disembarkation Far Shore

- (a) Troops will disembark as directed in 9 Aust Div Operation Order No 1, paras 29 and 30.
- (b) 2/2 Aust MG Bn will be prepared immediately to supply labour for unloading bulk stores as required by MLO.

ADM

11. See 9 Aust Div Adm Order No 2.

INTERCOMN

12. During the voyage wireless silence will be observed by all military sets. Intercomm will be through naval signals channels.

ACKNOWLEDGE

*D. 27 Aug 42 FAX*

Issued through Sigs

Time of signature 1730 hrs.

*Rf Hunter Maj*  
*Tor*  
Lt-Col  
GS

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POSTERN Distribution List "Z".



MOST SECRET

Appx "D" to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 2.

Copy No 7

OPERATION POSTERN

CONVOY MOVEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Landing Groups One and Two

Craft	Leave PEMMICAN	Arrive CHIVALRY	Leave CHIVALRY	Arrive FAR SHORE	Remarks
4 APD	0700 hrs D Minus 1	1600 hrs D Minus 1	1800 hrs D Minus 1	H Hour D Day	
18 LCI	1300 hrs D Minus 2	0800 hrs D Minus 1	1800 hrs D Minus 1	H Plus 10 mins D Day	
12 LCT	1100 hrs D Minus 4	0600 hrs D Minus 2	1530 hrs D Minus 2	H Plus 30 mins D Day	Arrive PORTICO 0600 hrs D Minus 1. Leave 2000 hrs D Minus 1
6 LST	0800 hrs D Minus 2	1000 hrs D Minus 1	1630 hrs D Minus 1	H Plus 105 mins D Day	
6 LST	1400 hrs D Minus 2	1530 hrs D Minus 1	0900 hrs D Day	0130 hrs D Plus 1	

2. Moves of 532 Group 2 ESB

- (a) Leave PEMMICAN 24 Aug
- (b) Arrive PORTICO 26 Aug
- (c) Leave PORTICO 2000 hrs D Minus 1
- (d) Arrive RED BEACH H Plus 30 mins D Day



60  
adjt - 7th  
9th  
mth

— Loading Area?  
Jeeps?

107/88/55

OPERATION POSTERN

MOST SECRET

Appx C to 9 Aust Div Operation  
Order No 2.

ASSEMBLY AND EMBARKATION TIMETABLE - VEHICLES AND STORES

Copy No 7

Serial	Craft No		Craft	Day	Assembly Area		Beach No.	Ramp No.	Embarkation			Remarks
	Army	Navy			Area	Arrive			Craft beaches at	Loading begins at	Estimated Finish	
1	RED	121	LST	28 Aug	U	1130	1	2	0730	0830	1800	Vehicle loading begins 1330 hrs.
2	"	122	"	"	V	1200	1	3	"	"	"	
3	"	123	"	"	W	1230	1	4	"	"	"	
4	RED	124	LST	29 Aug	U	0630	1	2	0730	0830	1800	
5	"	125	"	"	V	0700	1	3	"	"	"	
6	"	126	"	"	W	0730	1	4	"	"	"	
7	RED	42	LCT	29 Aug	X	0800	2	9	0900	0930	1400	
8	"	43	"	"	Y	0815	2	10	"	"	"	
9	"	44	"	"	Z	0830	2	11	"	"	"	
10	YELLOW	31	LCT	30 Aug	X	0830	2	9	0900	0930	1400	
11	"	32	"	"	Y	"	2	10	"	"	"	
12	RED	141	LST	30 Aug	U	0630	1	2	0730	0830	1800	
13	"	142	"	"	V	0700	1	3	"	"	"	
14	"	143	"	"	W	0730	1	4	"	"	"	
15	RED	144	LST	31 Aug	U	0630	1	2	0730	0830	1800	
16	"	145	"	"	V	0700	1	3	"	"	"	
17	"	146	"	"	W	0730	1	4	"	"	"	

NOTES: 1. Units will ensure that vehicles are sent from units on a timed programme to arrive at Assembly Areas at the times stated.

2. After loading drivers will secure their vehicles and report back to their units.

DISTRIBUTION:

List Z

Plus Loading Officers (17)  
Embarkation Staff (10)



60 - 2nd. 83/88/85  
ACB OC 3ps  
OPERATION POSTERN

9 Aust Div  
24 Aug 45  
GPGC/L/-

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY AND EMBARKATION OF PERSONNEL

(Issued in conjunction with 9 Aust Div Operation Order No 2)

1. Embarkation Control Centre will be located at
  - (a) No 1 Beach - Beach Control Centre hut 439 449  
subsidiary Control Centres (i) ramp 3  
(ii) ramp 6
  - (b) No 2 Beach - approx 436 445
2. Embarkation staff are in sole charge of the beach.
3. OC Troops and OCs dets will make thorough recce of assembly area at least 24 hrs before embarkation.
4. All units will ensure that nominal rolls of dets are forwarded to OC Troops 48 hrs before time of embarkation.
5. On arrival in assembly area OCs of all dets will report immediately to OC Troops.
6. All troops carried in MT will debus in aircraft dispersal bays and march to assembly areas.
7. All personnel on board ship prior to personnel embarkation, e.g. drivers of vehicles, will disembark and report to OC Troops in assembly area immediately ship beaches.
8. OC Troops responsibilities
  - (a) Consolidating nominal rolls, by units, for his ship the day before assembly.
  - (b) Hold a co-ordinating conference with OCs of all dets on his ship on the day prior to embarkation.
  - (c) Establishing a Report Centre at the Report Centre Sign in his assembly area.
  - (d) Checking nominal roll
  - (e) Marshalling of troops into order of embarkation (i.e. order of nominal roll)
  - (f) 15 mins before scheduled time of embarkation an interim report will be made to Control Centre.
  - (g) Passing one copy of nominal roll to Embarkation Staff representative immediately embarkation is completed.
  - (h) An inspection of ship in case of LSTs and LCTs will be made during loading of vehicles and stores.
  - (i) Berthing plan will be completed before assembly. In the case of LCIs this plan will be quickly checked if necessary with the captain before embarkation.
  - (j) In case of LCIs OC holds will be nominated before assembly and given full instructions.

DISTRIBUTION :

List 'B' plus all OC Troops (46) and Embarkation Staff (10)

19. - 1  
A 2  
B 3  
C 4  
D 5

6. - 6  
7. - 7  
8. - 8

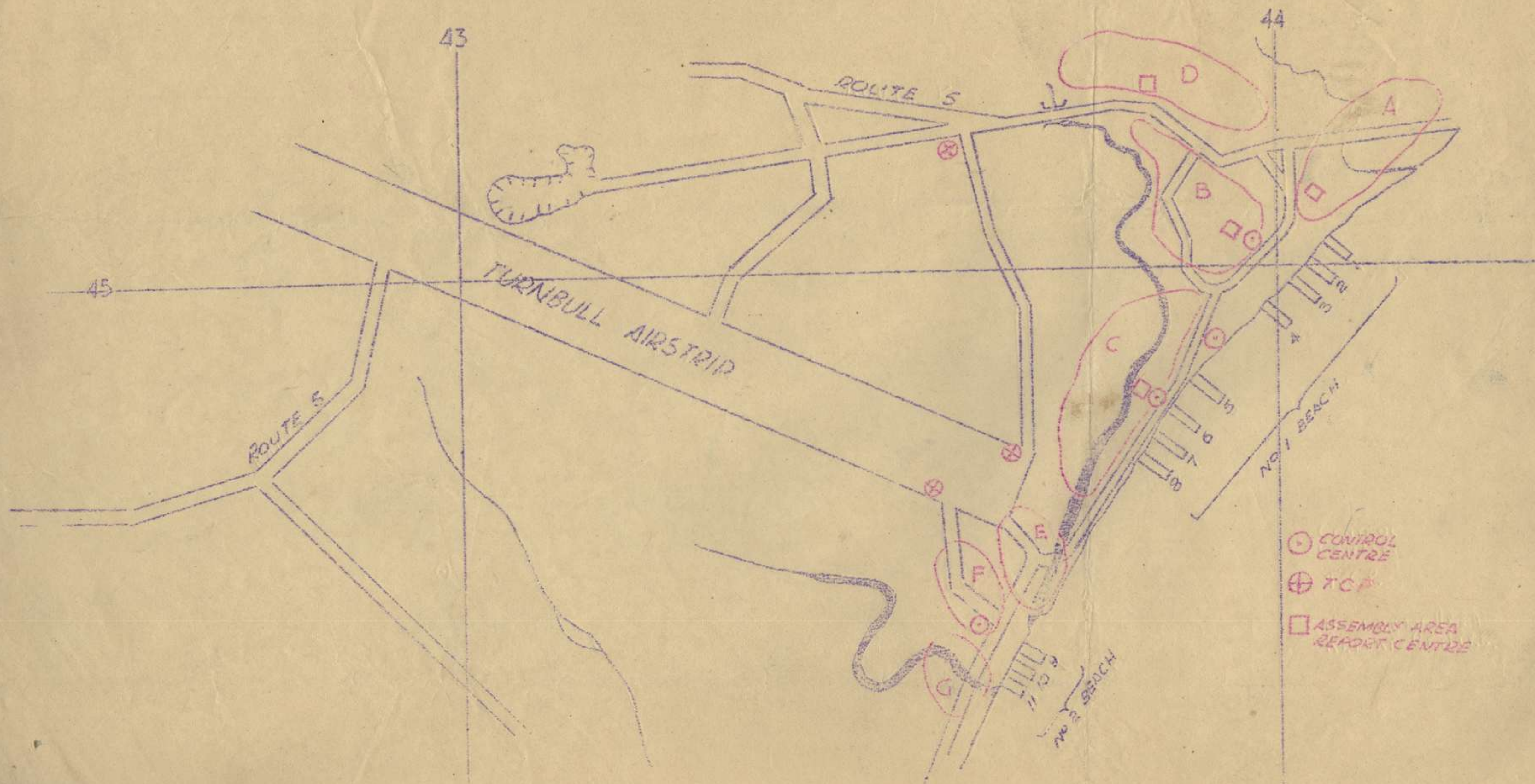


OPERATION POSTERN

MOST SECRET

PERSONNEL ASSEMBLY AREA

scale 1:6250





OPERATION POSTERN

ASSEMBLY AND EMBARKATION TIMETABLE - PERSONNEL

AMENDMENT No. 1

126/88/55  
MOST SECRET

9 Aust Div  
28 Aug 43

Appx B to 9 Aust Div Operation Order No. 2 is amended as follows:-

Cancel all detail opposite Serials 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 and insert:-

Serial	Craft No		Type of Craft	Day	Assembly		Embarkation				Remarks
	Army	Navy			Area	Time	Beach No.	Ramp No	Time Start	Estimated time finish	
13	RED 121	452	LST	1 Sep	A	1245	1	2	1330	1430	LSTs beach at 1300 hrs Extra vehs will be loaded on this day LSTs beach at 1500 hrs
14	" 122	456	"	"	B	1245	1	3	1330	1430	
15	" 123	458	"	"	C	1245	1	4	1330	1430	
16	" 124	466	"	"	A	1430	1	2	1530	1630	
17	" 125	468	"	"	B	1430	1	3	1530	1630	
18	" 126	454	"	"	C	1430	1	4	1530	1630	

DISTRIBUTION: List "Z" plus -

OC Troops 46  
Embarkation Staff 10



OPERATION POSTERN

108/88/55

MOST SECRET

Appx A to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 2  
Copy No.....7

9 AUST DIV LOADING TABLE - LANDING GROUPS ONE AND TWO

Beach	Craft			OC Troops	Loading Offr	Formation or Unit	Pers	Vehicles					Guns			Bulk Stores		
	Army No	Navy No	TYPE					Jeeps	Trailers	Tractors	Arty	3 Ton	Misc	25 pr	40 mm	2 pr	Item	Tonnage
YELLOW	11		APD	Capt DESCHAMP	-	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	129											
						RAA Recce Party	4											
						2/13 Aust Inf Bn		Fd	2									
						RAA Recce Party	4											
				AA	2													
				RAE Recce Party	4													
				ESB	3													
	12			Capt HANDLEY	-	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	137											
						2/13 Aust Inf Bn		RAE Recce Party	3									
						ESB	2											
RED	11		APD	Capt ANGUS	-	2/15 Aust Inf Bn	136											
						2/15 Aust Inf Bn		RAE Recce Party	3									
						ESB	5											
	12			Capt PIKE	-	2/17 Aust Inf Bn	132											
				2/17 Aust Inf Bn		RAE Recce Party	3											
				ESB	5													
YELLOW	21		LCI	Capt CRIBB	-	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	192											
						2/13 Aust Inf Bn												
	22			Capt COOPER	-	as above	192											
				2/13 Aust Inf Bn														
	23			Maj KELLY	-	as above	192											
				2/13 Aust Inf Bn														
RED	21		LCI	Maj NEWCOMBE	2/15	2/15 Aust Inf Bn	194											
						Aust		and attached										
						Capt CHRISTIE	-	as above	196									
						Capt DINNING	-	2/17 Aust Inf Bn	195									
	22			2/17 Aust Inf Bn		and attached												
	23																	



Beach	Graft			OC Troops	Loading Offr	Formation or Unit	Pers	Vehicles					Guns			Bulk Stores		
	Army No	Navy No	Type					Jeeps	Trailers	Tractors Arty	3 Ton	Misc	25 pr	40 mm	2 pr	Item	Ton	
RED	24		LCI	Capt SHELDON 2/17 Aust Inf Bn		2/17 Aust Inf Bn and attached	195											
YELLOW	31		LCT	Lieut PALMER 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt		2/13 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div  Medical	6 24 7 1	1 1 1		2	2 (stores)	D2 Tractor D4 Bulldozer	2	1	1			
	32			Lieut SCHOLLES 2/12 Aust Fd Regt		2/13 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div Sigs 9 Aust Div	5 24 8 1	3 1 1 1		2	2 (stores)	D4 Tractor	2	1	1			
RED	31		LCI	Capt SNELL 2/15 Aust Inf Bn		2/15 Aust Inf Bn and attached	191											
	32			Capt WILLIAMS HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde		HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde and attached	194											
	33			Lt Col HUSTON 2/12 Aust Fd Regt		HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde and attached	194											
	34			Capt REID 2/17 Aust Inf Bn		2/17 Aust Inf Bn and attached	195											
RED	42		LCT	Capt BARTEL 2/12 Aust Fd Regt		2/15 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div  Sigs 9 Aust Div Medical	10 25 12 1 1	2 2 2 1 1		2		D4 Tractor D6 Bulldozer	2 (1)	2	1			
	43			Lieut ROSS 2/12 Aust Fd Regt		HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div  Sigs 9 Aust Div Medical	4 23 13 3 1	3 2 2 2 1	1 1 1		2		D2 tractor D6 Bulldozer	2 (1)	2	1		



Beach	Craft			OC Troops	Loading Offr	Formation or Unit	Pers	Vehicles					Guns			Bulk Stores		
	Army No	Navy No	Type					Jeeps	Trailers	Tractors Arty	3 Ton	Misc	25 pr	40 mm	2 pr	Item	Tonnage	
RED	44		LCT	Lieut HOTHAM 2/12 Aust Fd Regt		2/17 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div	10 25 11	5 2			2		D2 tractor D6 Bulldozer	2(1t)	2	2		
RED	51		LCI	Capt G D EVANS HQ 9 Aust Div	-	Main HQ 9 Aust Div A Coy 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn HQ RAA 9 Aust Div HQ RAE 9 Aust Div Sigs 9 Aust Div 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn F Control Liaison Sec Shore Fire Control Party ATIS Medical Pro Coy	24 17 11 6 39 65 1 5 4 18 13											
	52			Capt GILL HQ 9 Aust Div	-	Main HQ 9 Aust Div A Coy 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn HQ RAA 9 Aust Div HQ RAE 9 Aust Div Sigs 9 Aust Div 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn AASC 9 Aust Div Medical Pro Shore Fire Control	24 16 13 7 27 35 8 8 12 3											
	53			Capt BROWN 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	-	26 Aust Inf Bde and attached	203											
	54			Capt REID 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	-	as above	180											



Beach	Craft			OC Troops	Loading Offr	Formation or Unit	Pers	Vehicles				Guns			Bulk Stores		
	Army No	Navy No	Type					Jeeps	Trailers	Tractors Acty	3 Ton	Misc	25 pr	40 mm	3 pr	Item	Ton lb
RED	55		LCI	Capt DUDLEY 2/23 Aust Br Bn	-	26 Aust Inf Bde and attached	172										
	56			Capt GUDLIPP 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	-	as above	203										
	57			Capt STANILAND HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde	-	HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde and attached 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	106 100										
RED	121		I T	Capt ISAKSSON 2/48 Aust Inf Bn	Lieut BROWN AASC	HQ 9 Aust Div 2/48 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div Sigs 9 Aust Div AASC 9 Aust Div Medical	6 268 65 14 30 15 31	3 1 4 2 2 1 3		2	2(tip) 2(amn)				Sups Amn POL	38 36 5	
	122			Capt POTTER 2/48 Aust Inf Bn	Lieut WALLACE 2/48 Aust Inf Bn	HQ 9 Aust Div 2/48 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div  Sigs 9 Aust Div Medical	9 134 162 24  30 54	3 2 5  2 2		2	4(tip) 2(amn)	1 Tractor D6 1 compressor 1 grader drawn			2	Sups Amn POL	39 36 4
	123			Capt MORPHETT 2/48 Aust Inf Bn	Lieut JAMES 2/12 Aust Fd Regt	HQ 9 Aust Div 2/48 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn (incl Bn HQ) Medical Air Sp Party 5 AF F Control Liaison Sec W/T 4 AC Sec	8 268 26 16 62  43 8 8 2	4 1    2 1 1 1		2	4(tip)  2(amn)				Sups Amn POL	38 36 4	



Beach	Craft			OC Troops	Loading Offr	Formation or Unit	Pers	Vehicles					Guns			Bulk Stores		
	Army No	Navy No	Type					Jeeps	Trailers	Tractors Arty	3 Ton	Misc	25 pr	40 mm	3 pr	Item		
RED	124		LST	Capt FINLAY 2/24 Aust Inf Bn	Lieut JACKA AASC	2/24 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE (incl HQ RAE 9 Aust Div) Sigs 9 Aust Div AASC 9 Aust Div Medical	260 43 41 36 24 30	4 3 3 2 3 2			2	2 (tip) 2 (winch)  2 (amn)	1 Tractor D6 1 Bulldozer D4	1	1	2	Sups Amn POL	38 36 4
	125			Capt GEDDES HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde	Lieut JONES 2/24 Aust Inf Bn	HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde 2/24 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div  Sigs 9 Aust Div Medical	72 160 86 40  36 46	 4 2 2  2 2			2	2 (winch) 2 (tip)  2 (amn)	1 Tractor D2 1 Bulldozer D6 1 compressor	1	1		Sups Amn POL	38 37 4
	126			Capt MACKENZIE 2/24 Aust	Lieut GUNN 2/12 Aust Fd Regt	2/24 Aust Inf Bn RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div Sigs 9 Aust Div Medical	200 64 36 12 48	4 3 2 3 1			2	2 (winch) 2 (tip) 2 (amn)	1 Tractor D2 1 Bulldozer D4	1	1	2	Sups Amn POL	38 37 4
RED	131		LCT	Lieut OCKWELL 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn		2/15 Aust Inf Bn 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	13 42										Unit eqpt (20 Bde gp) Water (in 2 gall cans) Medical stores POL Amn	25 20 21 3 55
	132			Capt FISHER 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn		2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	53										Unit eqpt (20) Bde gp) Sups Amn Medical	20 31 59 9







Beach	Craft			OC Troops	Loading Offr	Formation or Unit	Pers	Vehicles				Guns		Bulk stores				
	Army No	Navy No	LCs					Jeeps	Trailers	Tractors Arty	3 Ton	Misc	25 pr	40 mm	2 pr	Item	Ton-nage	
RED	142	LST	Capt NICHOLAS 2/2 Aust MG Bn  C Coy #  Ramp 3. Dumping	Lieut ARMSTRONG 2/2 Aust MG Bn	HQ 9 Aust Div	29									Sups	38		
					A Coy 2/1 Aust	15										Amn	29	
					HQ Gd Bn	38												
					2/4 Aust Indp Coy	40	6		5									
					RAA 9 Aust Div	40												
					RAE 9 Aust Div	38				10(stores)	3 semi-trailers 1 trailer elec 1 mob pile-driver							
					2/17 Aust Inf Bn	35												
					2/2 Aust MG Bn	135	2											
					Sigs 9 Aust Div	40												
					Medical	19												
2/118 Aust Bde Wkshps	29					1 Break-down 1 welding 1 stores 3(amm)												
	143		Capt O'CONNOR 2/4 Aust Indep Coy  D Coy #  Ramp 4 Dumping as above	Lieut W R S WEBSTER 2/12 Aust Fd Regt	HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde	12									Sups	38		
					HQ 2/13 Aust Inf Bn	16											Amn	29
					2/4 Aust Indep Coy	40											POL	17
					RAA 9 Aust Div	49			3	1 Break-down 9(stores)	3 semi-trailers 1 R Loading Wkshop 1 trailer electric 1 trailer welding		1(1t) 1	1				
					RAE 9 Aust Div	96												
					2/2 Aust MG Bn	135												
					Aust ML Landing Gp	5				5(medical)								



Beach	Craft			OC Troops	Loading Offr	Formation or Unit	Pers	Vehicles			Guns			Bulk Stores			
	Army No	Navy No						Jeeps	Trailers	Tractors Arty	3 Ton	Misc	25 pr	40 mm	2 pr	Item	Ton
RED	144		1st	<del>Lieut PARRY</del> <del>HQ 24 Aust</del> <del>Inf Bde</del> 2/5 Aust Inf Bn  A Coy # Ramp. Dunlop	Lieut KEAST 2/12 Aust Fd Regt	HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde 2/13 Aust Inf Bn 2/15 " " " HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde 2/28 Aust Inf Bn 2/32 " " " RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div 2/2 Aust MG Bn AASC 9 Aust Div Medical	10 28 35 4 2 2 20 30 135 78 43								Sups Amm POL	38 29 17	
	145			Lt Col MacARTHUR- ONSLOW 2/2 Aust MG Bn Bn HQ + HQ Coy Ramp. 3 Dunlop	Lieut MOXHAM 2/2 Aust MG Bn # as above.	2/4 Aust Indep Coy RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div 2/2 Aust MG Bn 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn Medical 2/118 Aust Bde Wshp	40 31 44 115 85 71 24			4		12 (stores) 1 compressor 5 (medical) (unit 2 eqpt) 14 (stores) 2 (unit eqpt) 2 (medical stores) 1 (machine shop)	2	1		Sups Amm POL	38 29 17
	146			Lieut SPRING 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	Lieut BRIDGES AASC	HQ 9 Aust Div 2/4 Aust Indep Coy RAA 9 Aust Div RAE 9 Aust Div Sigs 9 Aust Div 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn AASC 9 Aust Div Medical	4 80 55 40 30 72 60 64			2		1 garage 1 break- down 1 stores 12 stores 3 (unit eqpt)	2			Sups Amm POL	37 29 18



OPERATION POSTERN

ASSEMBLY AND EMBARKATION TIMETABLE - PERSONNEL

AMENDMENT No. 1

126/88/03

MOST SECRET

9 Aust Div  
28 Aug 43

Appx B to 9 Aust Div Operation Order No. 2 is amended as follows:-

Cancel all detail opposite Serials 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 and insert:-

Serial	Craft No		Type of Craft	Day	Assembly		Embarkation				Remarks
	Army	Navy			Area	Time	Beach No.	Ramp No	Time Start	Estimated time finish	
13	RED 121	452	LST	1 Sep	A	1245	1	2	1330	1430	) LSTs beach at 1300 hrs Extra vehs will be loaded on this day ) LSTs beach at 1500 hrs
14	" 122	456	"	"	B	1245	1	3	1330	1430	
15	" 123	458	"	"	C	1245	1	4	1330	1430	
16	" 124	466	"	"	A	1430	1	2	1530	1630	
17	" 125	468	"	"	B	1430	1	3	1530	1630	
18	" 126	454	"	"	C	1430	1	4	1530	1630	

DISTRIBUTION: List "Z" plus -

OC Troops 46  
Embarkation Staff 10



60  
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88/88/15-

MOST SECRET

24 Aug 43

OPERATION POSTERN

9 AUST DIV OPERATION ORDER NO. 3

Copy No. 7

(Issued in conjunction with 9 Aust Div Operation Order No. 1

INTENTION

1. Landing Group Three will embark at CHIVALRY and will land on RED BEACH Night D Plus 1/D Plus 2.

METHOD

2. 24 Aust Inf Bde is responsible for the embarkation of Landing Group Three at CHIVALRY.

3. Troops under command

The following troops are placed under command 24 Aust Inf Bde from time of arrival at CHIVALRY until time of landing on Far Shore -

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Personnel</u>
RAA	Det 2/12 Aust Fd Regt	58
	Det 2/12 Aust Fd Regt Sig Sec	4
	Det 2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt	198
	Det 2/4 Aust Lt AA Wkshop Sec	20
RAE	2/13 Aust Fd Coy	196
	Sec 2/1 Aust Mech Eqpt Coy	32
INF	C Coy PIB	148
AASC	Det AASC 9 Aust Div	424
AAMC	2/3 Aust Fd Amb	247
ORD	Det 2/118 Aust Ord Fd Pk	9
AEME	Det 2/118 Aust Bde Wkshop	36
MISC	2 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy (remains under command 24 Aust Inf Bde)	16
	9 Aust Div Postal Unit	16
	9 Aust Div Salvage Unit	40
	9 Aust Div Sec Reception Camp	10
	Det ADCS	7
Total		1461

4. Vehicles

Vehicles to be embarked are shown on attached schedule Appx A.

5. Allotment of Ships and Craft

(a) The following ships and craft are allotted :

<u>Craft</u>	<u>Personnel Capacity (each)</u>
18 LCI	183
6 LST	185

(b) Each LST will be loaded with 84 tons bulk stores as detailed in 9 Aust Div Q74/1/164 - Loading of Reserves - POSTERN

(c) LSTs will be loaded with vehicles and bulk stores on Tank decks only.



6. Timetable

Navy schedule is as follows :

Craft	Arrive CHIVALRY	Leave CHIVALRY	Arrive RED BEACH
18 LCI	1030 hrs D Plus 1	1200 hrs D Plus 1	0015 hrs D Plus 2
6 LST	0600 hrs D Plus 1	0900 hrs D Plus 1	0100 hrs D Plus 2

7. Command and Control

- One officer will be appointed OC Troops on each ship, and will carry out the duties set out in the memo "Duties of OC Troops" issued separately.
- In addition, one officer per LST will be appointed Loading Officer and will carry out the "Duties of Loading Officer", issued separately.
- US Navy is to provide one officer with W/T set on beach at CHIVALRY to assist in embarkation.
- After embarkation of Landing Groups One and Two at PEMMICAN, part of Embarkation Staff will travel by air to CHIVALRY to assist 24 Aust Inf Bde in organisation and control of embarkation for Landing Group Three.

8. Disembarkation of Personnel

- On reaching Far Shore, troops will disembark immediately and assemble on the beach under Det Comds.
- Guides - MLO will arrange with Recce Party 24 Aust Inf Bde and with parent units already ashore, for guides to meet units and subunits on landing and lead them to assembly areas.

9. Unloading Vehicles and Stores

- MLO will have labour organised and ready on the beach to unload bulk stores from LSTs.
- Vehicles will be unloaded last under directions of MLO and guided direct to dispersal areas.

ADM

10. See 9 Aust Div Adm Orders Nos 1 and 2

INTERCOMN

11. While at CHIVALRY HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde will be in communication with HQ 9 Aust Div from H Hour :

- by direct rear link W/T
- through Rear HQ 9 Aust Div at CHIVALRY.

ACKNOWLEDGE *O. 26 Aug. 43. Fad.*

Issued through Sigs

Time of signature 2300 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION : List "Z"

*W. J. M. for* Lt Col  
GS



**MOST SECRET**

Appx A to 9 Aust Div  
Operation Order No 3

**SCHEDULE OF VEHICLES TO BE EMBARKED CHIVALRY BY 24 AUST INF BDE**

Serial	Unit	Jeep	Trailer	Gun 2 pr	3 Ton
1	HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde	2			
2	24 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec	2			
3	Three inf bns	12		6	
4	2/3 Aust Fd Amb	7			
5	AASC 9 Aust Div	88	50		
6	2/118 Aust Ord Fd Pk				4 (stores)
7	2/118 Aust Bde Wkshops				7 (machinery)
8	Bulk stores and maintenance				9
9	RAE Stores and bridging equipment				32



PRO-FORMA MESSAGE FORM

3 5/88/10

NOTED
C.O. <i>John</i>
21/c
Adjts. <i>John</i>
Q.M. <i>John</i>
M.O.
I.O.
T.O.

TO LIST A less SERIALS 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 23, 24

FROM 9 AUST DIV

OP 56

15

MOST SECRET (.) figures required this HQ by 1200 hrs 16 aug (.) one (.)  
 tonnage unit eqpt which cannot be carried on tactically loaded craft to  
 be bulk loaded in LST or LCT (.) two (.) tonnage of unit eqpt being  
 carried in vehs other than jeeps and trailers (.) three (.) number of  
 tactical vehs in LST by types and craft (.) all figures by days

*Quintley* Capt

DRLS

0945



NOTED

41/88/10

42.

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

*Div: informed of error & of this unit. NOT on distribution 740*

CO  
2i/c  
Adj  
Q.M.  
M.O.  
L.O.  
T.O.  
R.S.

2  
3  
5  
4

TO : 2/4 AUST INDEP COY RAA 9 AUST DIV RAE 9 AUST DIV AUST ARMY TK BN SIGS 9 AUST  
DIV 20 AUST INF BDE 24 AUST INF BDE 26 AUST INF BDE 2/3 AUST PNR BN 9 AUST  
DIV CARR COY 9 AUST DIV SALV UNIT B SEC FSW A COY 2/1 AUST HQ GD BN 2/9 AUST  
DIV RECEPTION CAMP COMD G A Q CAMP AASC 9 AUST DIV MEDICAL ORD AEME  
DAPM 9 AUST DIV PRO COY 9 AUST DIV FD CASH OFFICE 9 AUST DIV POSTAL UNIT

FROM : 9 AUST DIV

Q 294

17

MOST SECRET (.) units will fwd the following information to reach this HQ by 1200  
hrs 18 aug (.) number of pers vehs guns trailers and D/W and cubic tonnage of  
stores required to be moved to CHIVALRY (.) all units will be prepared to load vehs  
and stores commencing am 23 (.) this will include all pers vehs stores etc not  
included in landing groups one and two (.) further orders will be issued (.) unit  
equip carried in unit vehs will not be included in return

*[Signature]*

Maj

D R L S

TOO : 1410



446  
2/4 Incl Conf.



62/88/10

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

TO: 24 Bde Gp 2/2 Aust M G Bn 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn 2/3 Aust Fd Amb  
FROM: HQ 9 AUST DIV 2 307 20

advise by 0800 hrs 21 aug dead weight tonnage and number of vehs by types available  
for loading for CHIVILRY commencing 1000 hrs 21 aug (.) advise number of 3 ton  
trucks required (.) tpt being arranged this HQ (.) units to provide baggage guards  
of two ORs to remain on ship (.) AASC will arrange feeding

*Approved by for*  
(Sd) D.C. Williams Maj

T00 2130



65/88/10

RO FORM MESSAGE FORM

TO : 2/4 AUST IND COY 1 AUST ARMY TK BN RAA 9 AUST DIV RAE 9 AUST DIV SIGS  
9 AUST DIV 20 AUST INF BDE 24 AUST INF BDE 26 AUST INF BDE 2/2 AUST MG BN  
2/3 AUST PNR BN COMD G A Q CAMP B SEC FSW A COY 2/1 AUST HQ GD BN  
HQ COMD AASC ADMS ADOS AEME 9 AUST DIV PRO COY 9 AUST DIV FD CASH OFFICE  
9 AUST DIV POSTAL UNIT 11 AUST DIV REAR PARTY (MILNE BAY RECP CAMP)

FROM : 9 AUST DIV

Q 311

22

MOST SECRET (.) ref our Q74/1/162 (.) remainder of stores and vehs for loading  
CHIVALRY to be on call as from 1800 hrs 22 aug (.) anticipate NO pers loaded  
before 24 aug other than baggage guard (.) advise by 1700 hrs 22 aug number of  
vehs for loading also number 3 ton truck loads of stores to be lifted

*Williams* Maj

D R L S

TOO : 0940



PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

66/88/55

TO : 1. 20 AUST INF BDE  
2. 24 AUST INF BDE  
3. 26 AUST INF BDE  
4. RAA 9 AUST DIV  
5. RAE 9 AUST DIV  
6. SIGS 9 AUST DIV  
7. 2/2 AUST MG BN

8. 2/3 AUST PNR BN  
9. COMD  
10. G  
11. Q  
12. AASC 9 AUST DIV  
13. MEDICAL  
14. Lt Col WALKER

NOTED  
21/c  
Adj.  
O.M.  
M.O.  
I.O.  
T.O.  
R.S.M.  
22

FROM : 9 AUST DIV

OP 69

MOST SECRET (.) formations and sp arms and services will today list lessons from exercise 21 aug (.) comds or reps of addressees will assemble HQ 9 aust div 0900 hrs 23 aug for final discussion on exercise (.) major alterations envisaged in plan are (.) FIRST bulk loading except for certain sup and tactical vehs in LST of three landing gps (.) SECOND definite allotment of labour incl from 2/24 and 2/48 aust inf bns for unloading stores (.) THIRD assembly posns of 26 aust inf bde to be directly to front of LST in which they land (.) all units will revise requirements of tactical vehs in landing gp one and reps attending conference will submit revised requirements with view to eliminating those vehs which cannot move from the beach but only cause congestion

This message must be sent IN CIPHER, etc.

SDR Nos 1,2, 3,7,8,12  
G Orderly  
Remainder

1100

R. W. H. Lt Col  
H. A.



PROFORMA MESSAGE FORM

74/88/55

TO: 20 AUST INF BDE : 26 AUST INF BDE : RAA 9 AUST DIV :  
2/2 AUST MG BN : AASC 9 AUST DIV

FROM: 9 AUST DIV OP73 23

-----  
at 0930 hrs 25 aug 43 loading offrs of LCTs yellow 31, 32

RED 42, 43, 44 and LSTs 121 to 126 and 141 to 146 will attend a  
coordinating conference at "B" offrs mess HQ 9 aust div  
-----

Except W/T

DRLS

TOO 2210

*Wey*  
*Chambers*  
Capt.

*60 -*  
*apt* *Flw*



60.  
adj.  
Q.M.

Div.  
744

Make amendments.

97/88/55

MOST SECRET

9 Aust Div  
25 Aug 43  
GP71/1/-

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY AND LOADING OF  
VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND STORES

1. 9 Aust Div GP59/1/- of 24 Aug 43 is amended as follows :-
  - (a) Para 5(a)(viii) after "skid chains" insert "on tyres".
  - (b) Para 5(c) after "equipment" add -  
"Engines will not be started up after personnel embark except as ordered in para 5(a)(ii)".
  - (c) Para 5(d)(ii) after "warmed up" add -  
"at CHIVALRY after personnel disembark and at the far shore after the doors are opened on approach to the beach".

amended - 27 Aug  
[Signature]

R. J. Warner Maj  
for Lt Col  
GS

DISTRIBUTION:

List "B" plus Loading Officers	17
Embarkation Staff	10



PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM

92/88/75

2/2 AUST MG BN  
26 AUG 1943  
A.I.F.

TO : 20 AUST INF BDE 26 AUST INF BDE 2/4 AUST IND COY 1 AUST ARMY TK BN  
RAA 9 AUST DIV RAE 9 AUST DIV SIGS 9 AUST DIV 2/2 AUST MG BN  
2/3 AUST PNR BN "A" Coy 2/2 AUST HQ GD BN 9 AUST DIV PRO COY COMD G  
A Q CAMP B SEC FSW MEDICAL ORD AEME

FROM : 9 AUST DIV Q 329 25

advise by 1200 hrs 26 aug number of vehs by types (a) already shipped to  
CHIVALRY (.) (b) present held

*E. Williams*

Maj D R L S

TOO: 0840

80  
adj. - 7.4.4  
7.6 -  
Q.M.

Replied. 031. (2) 11.  
(6) 12.



Sent L.O.B.

(11).

bvt. 15 cwt. 4 x 4.

65638.	65601.	<del>63692</del>	65593.
63688	63716.	63703.	63704
65584	63698.	63709.	63725

Present Held.

Fond. 15 cwt. 4 x 4.

55154.	54605	58931.	57773
54592	57663	55152	55174
54040.	58914	55166.	

bvt. 15 cwt. 4 x 4

63692.

(12).



99/88/10

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM


TO : 20 AUST INF BDE 26 AUST INF BDE RAE 9 AUST DIV HQ COMD AASC 9 AUST DIV  
AUST COORDINATOR 2/2 AUST MG BN 2/3 AUST PNR BN ADOS A Q DAPM ADMS  
G 1 (CO) 9 AUST DIV PRO COY

FROM : 9 AUST DIV

Q 334

26

the following will attend a Q conference this HQ 1400 hrs 28 aug (.) staff captains  
CRE CASC COs 2/3 aust pnr bn 2/2 aust mg bn ADMS lt-col WALKER ADOS DAQMG (L) aust  
coordinator DAAG DAPM OC pro coy

 Maj

D R L S

TOO : 1315



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

34 | 88 | 10

35

M O S T      S E C R E T

Copy No. ....

DRAFT 9 MUST DIV ADM ORDER NO 2.

MOVE OF LANDING GP 1 TO FAR SHORE

1. MOVE.

- (a) In accordance with mvt and load tables to be issued.
- (b) Embarkation will be controlled by 9 Aust Div Embarkation Co.

2. ✓ RATIONS.

(a) For Ops.

- (i) Fd Op 2  
Emergency dehydrated 3
- (ii) Portion to be dumped vide Adm O No 1 para 2.
- (iii) These rations will NOT be consumed on voyage other than in an emergency, and then only by orders of OC tps of respective ships.

(b) Voyage.

Tps on LSTs	2 days	
LCIs	2 days	
LCTs	3 days	( to be checked with USN programme)
APDs	2 days	

3. ✓ WATER.

- (a) Is available on ships for drinking only.
- (b) Pors will land with water bottles full.

4. ✓ AMN.

(a) Other than arty

- (i) Scale of amm on man or with gun and additional to be carried ashore to unit dumps will be determined by bde etc comds.
- (ii) All first line amm surplus to above will be returned to 10 AAD under arrangements ADOS 9 Aust Div.

(b) Arty.

- (i) Fd Arty. Complete first line amm not carried in tractors or trailers will be carried with gun. Responsibility RAA to unload.
- (ii) AA Arty. Complete first line plus 24 rds SAP and 24 rds special per gun. Responsibility RAA to unload amm not in tractors or vehs.



5. ✓ EQPT.

(a) Pers.

Will embark fully equipped.

(b) Packs.

Will be left at PEMMICAN stored under div arrangements.

(c) Surplus unit eqpt. *To be ready by 24*

(i) Units will land with only eqpt necessary for ops. Remainder will be stored at PEMMICAN.

(ii) This must strictly be adhered to as shipping space available is barely sufficient to tpt essential quantities of sups, amm etc required for op purposes.

(iii) Unit and pers eqpt landed on far shore is responsibility of unit concerned to initially stack, guard and move to unit. Unit dumps will NOT remain in div maint area after D day, and will NOT be moved to another location in div maint area without authority of MLO.

(iv) Unit stores etc landed on far shore will be packed so that NO package is heavier than two men reasonably can handle.

6. ✓ MVT OF SURPLUS EQPT, PACKS ETC.

Surplus eqpt etc will be moved to CHIVALRY as soon as possible and stored there available for call fwd as required.

7. ✓ CLOTHING.

(a) Pers will carry spare clothing, *short trousers in Bed Roll* <sup>↑</sup>sox, bootlaces.

(b) Spare pr boots may be carried if desired. Remainder, with one pr trousers and one shirt will be left in pack.

(c) Div res will carry stocks of boots and clothing.

8. ✓ BLANKETS.

(a) Not more than one per man. Remainder to be returned to 4 AOD by arrangement ADOS 9 Aust Div.

(b) Stocks of blankets will be carried in div res.

9. ✓ MOSQUITO NETS AND REPELLANT.

Will be carried on man.

10. ✓ TENTAGE.

(a) Will be returned to div store in PEMMICAN under arrangements ADOS 9 Aust Div.

.....3/..



10. TENTAGE - CONT'D.

(b) ADOS is to ensure that tentage drawn from local resources is returned.

11. ✓ OFFR'S VALISES.

To Div store PEMMICAN.

12. ✓ VEHS.

(a) Batteries.

(i) Fully charged and topped up at embarkation. Battery leads will be disconnected immediately veh embarks and will be connected prior to landing. OC tps will pay particular attention to ensure that this is done.

(ii) The practice of running leads for lighting from batteries in MV will cease. It is imperative that batteries are charged for landing.

(b) P O L.

Tanks and sumps full.

(c) Lights and horns.

To be disconnected before embarkation and NOT connected until after landing.

(d) Non skid chains.

To be fitted before embarkation.

(e) Tow ropes.

All vhs embarking will carry a tow rope.

13. ✓ WATERPROOFING - ARMS - VEHs - SIG EQPT.

(a) Will be carried out in accordance with practice developed in AUSTRALIA to the extent that available materials will allow.

(b) Vhs will be checked at assembly pts immediately prior to embarkation and any defects caused by move from unit areas repaired. Comds units will ensure that this is done.

(c) Comd AEME will arrange to place a small quantity of grease etc on each ship to enable any necessary waterproofing to be carried out en route. OsC tps on respective ships are responsible for ensuring that this is done.

(d) U.S. Army vhs on loan will be waterproofed under direction Comd AEME.



14. ✓ BLACKING OUT BRIGHT PARTS OF DECK CARGO.

- (a) To avoid possibility of reflected light giving away the posn of ships at night all bright parts of deck cargo will be blacked out or covered.
- (b) This will apply in particular to MV loaded on deck which will have bright parts such as windscreens headlamps etc blacked out by despatching unit. It is necessary that windscreens are covered if possible by material that can be removed just prior to landing.
- (c) OC tps is responsible for ensuring that this order is implemented.

15. ✓ COVERAGE FOR STORES.

- (a) Stores liable to damage by water will be covered in dumps or when carried as deck cargo.
- (b) ADOS 9 Aust Div will make arrangements to provide tentage for this purpose. CASC to give estimate of number required.
- (c) Tentage used for this purpose MUST be painted or cflgd.

16. ✓ SECURING OF STORES ON VEHS.

- (a) Where vchs are loaded higher than the frame of the body, particular care will be taken to lash the load securely, to prevent spilling of the cargo by the movement of the ship.
- (b) Lashings also will be applied to stores on beach sleds.

17. ✓ STAGING.

- (a) All ships will stage at CHIVALRY and at PORTICO in addition.
- (b) Provisional dates and meal arrangements vide appx "A" to be issued later.

18. ✓ MEDICAL.

(a) Medical pers for ships.

ADMS 9 Aust Div will arrange for medical pers with necessary eqpt to accompany each ship.

(b) Scrub Itch and Scrub Typhus.

Prior to leaving CHIVALRY all ranks will treat their clothing with mosquito repellent vide appx "B" att.

(c) Hygiene on voyage.

- (i) Pers liable to seasickness will take every opportunity of lying down during voyage.

.....5/..



18. MEDICAL - CONT'D.

(c) Hygiene on voyage - cont'd.

(ii) Tps taking part in landing ops will drink a large quantity of fluid towards end of voyage. This precaution may assist in the recovery of men wounded during or soon after landing.

(d) Casualties during voyage.

Evacuation for first part of voyage to CHIVALRY.

Second part of voyage to beach medical post.

19. ORD DET TO REMAIN AT PEMMICAN.

(a) ADOS 9 Aust Div will arrange for following to remain at PEMMICAN.

Offrs	1	}	OO 9 Aust Div.
Clerks	1		from LOB
Storeman	1		

(b) OO will ensure that 9 Aust Div tentage eqpt etc is held intact and will supervise despatch to CHIVALRY.

20. ACK. ed

Signed at

hrs. *JAV.*

LT-COL.

AA & QMG 9 AUST DIV.

Dist through Sigs.

DISTRIBUTION:

	<u>Copy No</u>		<u>Copy No</u>
20 Aust Inf Bde	1	532 Shore Bn 2 ESB	9
24 " " "	2	Comd	10
26 " " "	3	G	11
RAA 9 Aust Div	4	A Q	12
RAE " " "	5	AASC	13
Sigs " " "	6	Medical	14
2/2 Aust MG Bn	7	Ord	15
2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	8	<del>AEME</del>	16
		Spares	17 - 20



M O S T   S E C R E T

Appx "B" to 9 Aust Div Adm Order No 2.  
-----

MOSQUITO REPELLANT LOTION FOR PREVENTION OF SCRUB ITCH AND SCRUB TYPHUS.

1. To treat clothing, the lotion should be poured into a flat tin so that fingers may be dipped into it and a thin film made by rubbing the hands together. The film is then transferred to the inner aspect of garments by rubbing the moistened hands quickly over this inner surface, trying to cover about one square foot of cloth before it becomes necessary to dip the finger again. The aim should be an even distribution without missing out any patch.
2. Shirt cuffs, trouser bottoms to 12 in above ankle, and waistbands must be turned inside out before lotion is applied in the manner described above. Socks need a more thorough impregnation. A rubbing and washing action must be employed, using nearly one teaspoonful of lotion to each pair.
3. In very wet weather it is desirable that the lotion be applied rather more liberally. The application is tedious and occupies possible 10 mins to carry out, but it MUST be done efficiently. OSc tps are responsible that efficient treatment of clothing is carried out.
4. The application must be repeated after five days.



49

89/88/10

NOTED	2
CO	3
21/6	4
AGT	5
Q.M.	
M.O.	
I.O.	
T.O.	
R.S.M.	

PRO FORMA MESSAGE FORM.

TO : 2/4 AUST IND COY RAA 9 AUST DIV RAE 9 AUST DIV SIGS 9 AUST DIV 20 AUST INF BDE  
26 AUST INF BDE 2/2 AUST MG BN 2/3 AUST PNR BN AASC 9 AUST DIV 9 AUST DIV PRO  
COY MEDICAL AEME CAMP rptd 24 AUST INF BDE A COY 2/1 AUST HQ GD BN

FROM : 9 AUST DIV

Q 299

17

MOST SECRET (.) ref draft 9 aust div adm order no 2 paras 5 and 11 NOT to all addressees  
(.) in anticipation of space and tpt being available packs offrs valises and surplus  
unit eqpt will be made ready to move with 24 bde gp to CHIVALRY to load 24 aug (.)  
definite orders when space posn can be confirmed

*Handwritten signature*

Lt-col D R L S

TOO : 2040

Copies to CMD

G

Q

ADOS



Copy No. .... 15 .....

REF 9 AUST DIV ADM ORDER NO 2 APPX "A"

(a) Amend Ser No 2 to read -

"leave PEMMICAN 0800 hrs D minus 2, arr CHIVALRY 1000 hrs D minus 1  
leave CHIVALRY 1600 hrs D minus 1, meals required 2."

(b) Amend Ser No 5 to read -

"Leave PEMMIGAN 0700 hrs D minus 1 ETA CHIVALRY 1700 hrs D minus 1.  
Tps will NOT leave ships. Meals will be provided on board."

*B. Pearl*  
AA & QMG 9. AUST DIV. LT-COL.

	Copy No.
20 Aust Inf Bde	1 - 3
24 " " " (for inform)	4
26 " " "	5 - 7
C Coy 1 Aust A Tk Bn	8
2/4 Aust Ind Coy	9
RAA 9 Aust Div	10 - 11
RAE " " "	12 - 13
Sigs " " "	14
2/2 Aust MG Bn	15
2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	16
A Coy 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	17
9 Aust Div Pro Coy	18
532 EB & SR Gp	19
N. G. F.	20 - 21
Comd	22
G	23 - 24
A Q	25 - 26
Camp	27
HQ Comd AASC	28 - 29
Medical	30 - 31
DAFM	32
Ord	33
AEME	34
File	35
War Diary	36 - 37
Spares	38 - 44



2/2/44 Bw

C. E. 75/88/10  
adj. - 744  
Q M - 744

M O S T S E C R E T

HQ 9 Aust Div  
Ref : Q74/1/164  
23 Aug 43.

LOADING OF RESERVES - POSTERN

1. The following is the schedule of res stores, sups, amn etc and unit eqpt not carried in unit vehs, to be loaded for operation POSTERN :

Day of landing	Item	Craft	Tonnage	Ramp No	Dumping to be completed by :
D	Unit eqpt (20 Bde gp) Water (in 2 Gal cans) Med Stores POL AMN	LCT 1 " " " "	25 20 21 3 55	1	1200 hrs 28 Aug 43.
D	Unit Eqpt (26 Bde gp) SUPS AMN MED	LCT 2 " " "	20 31 59 9	2	Do
D	Unit eqpt (Div Tps) SUPS AMN MED	LCT 3 " " "	21 31 63 9	3	Do
D	Unit Eqpt (Sigs 9 Aust Div) SUPS AMN POL	LCT 4 " " "	9 31 74 7	4	Do
D	SUPS AMN POL	LCT 5 " "	31 83 7	5	Do
D	SUPS AMN POL	LCT 6 " "	31 83 6	6	Do
D	SUPS AMN POL	LCT 7 " "	31 83 7	7	Do
D	SUPS AMN POL	LST 1 " "	38 36 5	2	1200 hrs 29 Aug 43.
D	SUPS AMN POL	LST 2 " "	39 36 4	3	Do
D	SUPS AMN POL	LST 3 " "	38 36 4	4	Do
D	SUPS AMN POL	LST 4 " "	38 36 4	2	1800 hrs 29 Aug 43.



Day of landing	Item	Craft	Tonnage	Ramp No	Dumping to be completed by :
D	SUPS AMN POL	LST 5 " "	38 37 4	3	1800 hrs 29 Aug 43.
D	SUPS AMN POL	LST 6 " "	38 37 4	4	Do
D plus 1	SUPS AMN POL	LST 1 " "	37 30 17	2	1800 hrs 30 Aug 43.
D plus 1	SUPS AMN POL	LST 2 " "	38 29 17	3	Do
D plus 1	SUPS AMN POL	LST 3 " "	38 29 17	4	Do
D plus 1	SUPS AMN POL	LST 4 " "	38 29 17	2	1200 hrs 31 Aug 43.
D plus 1	SUPS AMN POL	LST 5 " "	38 29 17	3	Do
D plus 1	SUPS AMN POL	LST 6 " "	37 29 18	4	Do
D plus 2	SUPS AMN POL MED UNIT EQPT ORD STORES	LST 1 " " " " "	39 26 4 3 4 7	(all stores for landing on D plus 2 will be located at CHIVALRY and will be loaded under arrangements 24 Aust Inf Bde in accordance with this Schedule).	
D plus 2	SUPS AMN POL MED UNIT EQPT ORD STORES	LST 2 " " " " "	39 27 4 3 5 7	Do	
D plus 2	SUPS AMN POL MED UNIT EQPT ORD STORES	LST 3 " " " " "	39 27 4 3 5 7	Do	
D plus 2	SUPS AMN POL MED UNIT EQPT ORD STORES	LST 4 " " " " "	39 27 4 3 4 7	Do	



Day of landing	Item	Craft	Tonnage	Ramp No	Dumping to be completed by :
D plus 2	SUPS	LST 5	38	(all stores for landing on D plus 2 will be located at CHIVALRY and will be loaded under arrangements 24 Aust Inf Bde in accordance with this Schedule)	
	AMN	"	27		
	POL	"	4		
	MED	"	3		
	UNIT EQPT	"	5		
	ORD STORES	"	7		
D plus 2	SUPS	LST 6	38	Do	
	AMN	"	27		
	POL	"	4		
	MED	"	3		
	UNIT EQPT	"	5		
	ORD STORES	"	7		

2. The following vehs will be loaded in addition to tactical vehs should sufficient space be available without loading on top deck of LSTs (under no circumstances is top deck to be used with exception of 40 m.m. BOFOR A A Guns).

Day of landing	Type of veh	Craft	Loaded with	To be ready for landing	Remarks
D	12 x 3 ton trucks	2 on each of 6 LSTs	AMN	1200 hrs 29 Aug 43.	
D plus 1	5 x 3 ton trucks	LST 1	AMN	1800 hrs	(a) Allotted as follows :
	3 x 3 " "	" 2	"	30 Aug 43.	2/2 MG Bn 2
	5 x 3 " "	" 3	MED		2/4 Ind Coy 2
	5 x 3 " "	" 4	"		HQ 9 Aust Div 2
	2 x 3 " "	" 5	"		2/3 Pnr Bn 3
	3 x 3 " "	" 5 (a)	UNIT EQPT		
	5 x 3 " "	" 6	" "		
D plus 2	9 x 3 ton trucks		ORD STORES		to be loaded under arrangements 24 Aust Inf Bde.

### 3. UNIT EQPT FOR LOADING ON LCTs - D DAY.

(a) The following unit eqpt will be made available for collection NOT later than 0700 hrs 28 Aug 43 :

	UNIT	TONNAGE
(i)	HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde	7
(ii)	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	8
(iii)	2/15 " " "	8
(iv)	2/17 " " "	2
(v)	HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde	5
(vi)	2/24 Aust Inf Bn	9
(vii)	2/48 " " "	6
(viii)	HQ RAA 9 Aust Div	2
(ix)	2/12 Aust Fd Regt	2
(x)	Sigs 9 Aust Div	23
(xi)	HQ 9 Aust Div	3

(b) 5 tons stores at CHIVALRY for 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will be loaded on LCT 2 during staging period. HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde to arrange same with HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.

.....4/..



3. UNIT EQPT FOR LOADING ON LCTs - D DAY - CONT'D.

- (c) One rep from each unit will travel with unit eqpt.
- (d) The above allotment of tonnage will not be exceeded.
- (e) AASC 9 Aust Div will arrange tpt to report to respective units at 0700 hrs 28 Aug 43. Vehs will be loaded and report back to AASC lines by 1000 hrs 28 Aug 43.

4. TACTICAL LOADING OF SUPS AMN POL ETC.

- (a) AASC 9 Aust Div will ensure that so far as it is possible, equal proportions of all items placed on each craft (i.e. SAA bdr to be divided amongst 12 craft on D Day).
- (b) 24 Aust Inf Bde will load in accordance with (a) above.
- (c) CASC will arrange for one representative to travel on each craft containing bulk stores who will be in possession of detailed list of stores on that craft, (prepared by AASC). Two copies of above will be forwarded to HQ 9 Aust Div on completion of dumping.

5. ENGR STORES.

- (a) Stores for landing D Day will be under arrangements RAE 9 Aust Div, and will be on tactically loaded craft.
- (b) Stores for landing D plus 1 will be veh loaded under arrangements RAE 9 Aust Div - Q will supply 3 ton trucks as required.
- (c) Stores for landing D plus 2 will be veh loaded under arrangements 24 Aust Inf Bde and RAE 9 Aust Div - vehs as required will be obtained from 9 Aust Div pool at CHIVAIRY.

6. LOADING PARTIES.

- (a) Will be notified as required.
- (b) AASC 9 Aust Div will provide tpt as instructed by "Q" 9 Aust Div.

*[Signature]*  
LT-COL.  
AA & QMG 9 AUST DIV.

Signed at            hrs

Distribution by Sigs.

DISTRIBUTION:

20 Aust Inf Bde  
24 " " "  
26 " " "  
C Sqn Gp 1 Aust A Tk Bn  
2/4 Aust Indep Coy  
RAA 9 Aust Div  
RAE " " "  
Sigs " " "  
2/2 Aust MG Bn  
2/3 Aust Pnr Bn  
C Coy PIB  
A Coy 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn  
2/9 Aust Div Carrier Coy  
9 Aust Div Hd Cash Office  
" " " Postal Unit

1 - 3

9 Aust Div Salvage Unit  
" " " Reception Camp  
532 EB & SR Gp  
N. G. F.  
COMD  
G  
A Q  
HQ COMD AASC  
Medical  
Ord  
AEME  
Camp  
File  
War Diary



129/88/10

27 Aug 43.

1870

Ref 9 Aust Div Adm Order No 2 para 5 (c)

- B. R. Earl*  
~~AA & QMG 9 AUST DIV.~~ LT-COL.

DAPM  
Ord  
AEME  
File  
War Diary.