

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

**Item number: 8/3/28**

**2/28 Infantry Battalion**

**February - May 1942**

FEBRUARY MONTH  
1942. YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

# WAR DIARY

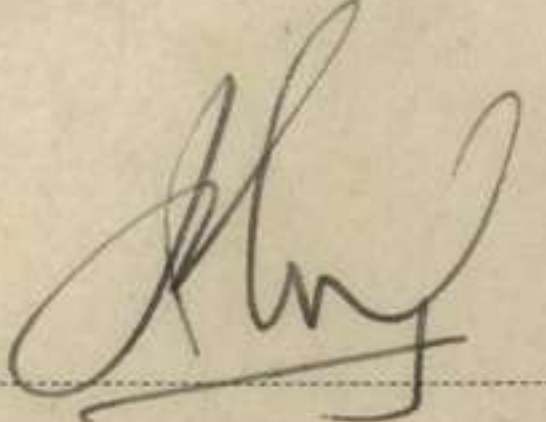
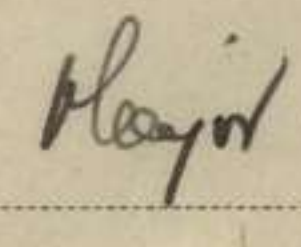
(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O.'s. REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
HARET JEDIDE LEBANON.	FEB.			
	2	R/O 300.	1	
	6	Coy T.E.W.T.'s. EL MINA PORT. The defence of EL MINA - the port of TRIPOLI is essential to the safety of TRIPOLI and Coys have each been allocated a day in which to conduct Coy T.E.W.T.'s. to acquaint themselves with the area and the defence system in operation.	2	
		R/O 301.	3	
	7	Field Return (offrs and O/Rs.)	4	
	10	R/O 302.	5	
	11	Instructions - BN in attack. Above instructions prepared to cover attack on Outpost posn held by D Coy to accustom D Coy and 10 Pl personnel to their defensive posns and to ascertain weaknesses in the defence.	6	
	12	Training instruction.	7	
	13	R/O 303.	8	
	14	Field Return (Offrs and O/Rs.)	9	
	15	Instructions - Opening situation and narrative for Bn T.E.W.T. Beach Defence.	10	
	17	R/O 304.	11	
	19	Instructions and Opening Situation - Withdrawal exercise prepared to practice D Coy in withdrawal under fire from Outpost Posn to their alternative posn at Pt 603.(1762 2759).		
		R/o 305.	12	
21	Field Return (Offrs and O/Rs.)	13		
24	R/O 306.	14		
	Exercise Operation Order.	15		
	Appreciation of Bn Defence Area by Maj.J.P.COX,	16		
	Admin Comd .	17		
26	R/o 307.	18		
	Photo's of topical interest.	19		

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-4/41-G.

Signature  

FEBRUARY MONTH  
1942. YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

# WAR DIARY

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/28 Aust Inf Bn

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O's. REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
HARET JEDIDE LEBANON.	FEB. 28	<p>R/O 308 Field Return (Offrs and O/Rs.) During the month training of all ranks has been accelerated. Native labour has been engaged to complete digging of defensive positions, thus enabling more time to be devoted to training. The weather has improved and the health of the troops generally is excellent. Lt-col J.E. LLOYD left on 16 Feb to attend Senior Officers' Course at CAIRO.</p>	<p>20 21</p>	

Signature *J. E. Lloyd*

42/39.

HQ, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn,  
In the Field.  
4 Mar 42.

OFFICER IN CHARGE

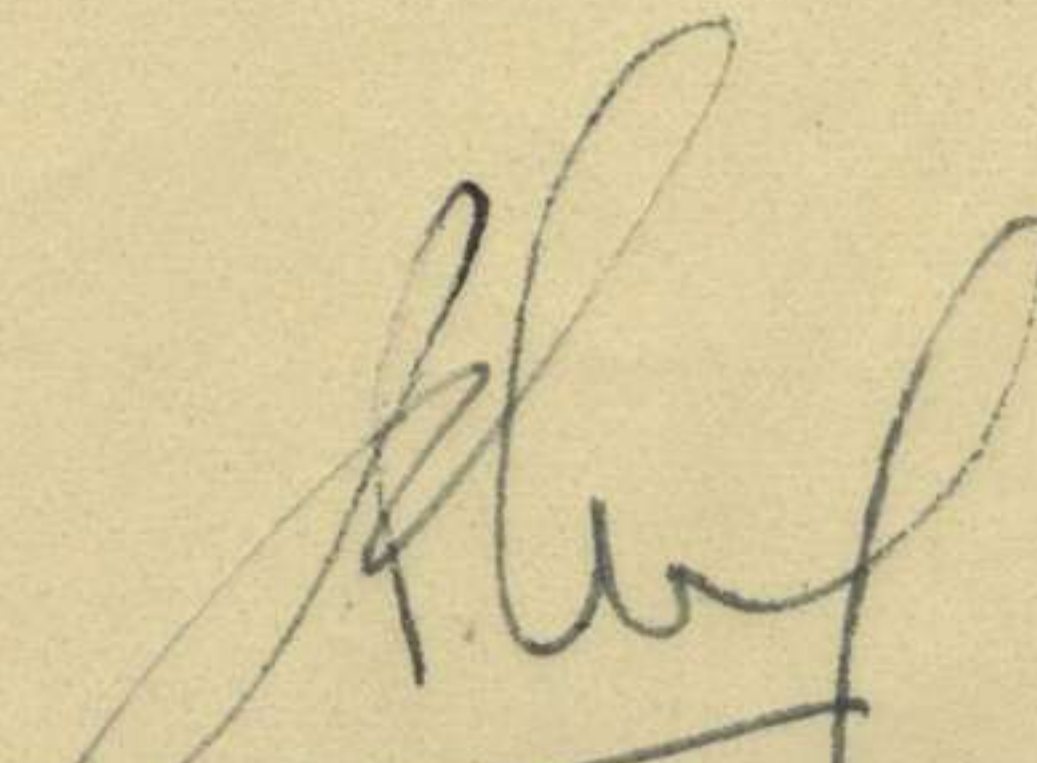
MILITARY HISTORY & INFORMATION SEC.

H.Q., A.I.F. (M.E.).

WAR DIARY - 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

Herewith War Diary (in duplicate) for the month  
of Feb 42.

Please acknowledge receipt.

  
Admin Comd 2/28 Aust Inf Bn. Maj.

War Diary ✓

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
2 Feb 42 (558 Day)

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 300

BY LT-COL J.E.LLOYD. D.S.O., M.C.

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. CENSORSHIP

It is reported by the Base Censor that franking officers are not effectively discharging their duties; that unit correspondence of the A.I.F. in general is at present containing much censorable matter.

The G.O.C., A.I.F. has therefore directed that all officers will familiarise themselves immediately with censorship regulations and make franking effective.

2. WEARING OF RESPIRATORS

In order to conserve material, it has been decided that the wearing of respirators will not take place for more than two periods of half an hour each per month.

The importance however of being able to don the respirator in the prescribed time and of being able to carry on normal duties whilst wearing the respirator is still emphasised, and all ranks must be competent to do this.

Commencing Saturday 31 Jan. 42 and each alternate Saturday thereafter all ranks will wear respirator from 0900 hrs till 0930 hrs. whilst performing normal duties.

3. DRIVING

IMPROPER USE OF CHANGE DOWN

(a) It has been noted that many drivers change to a lower gear just before entering a corner and use the engine as a brake while cornering. Cases also occur where rapid deceleration is obtained on the straight by changing down. This practice will be discontinued as it is dangerous and harmful to the vehicle for the following reasons :-

(i) The vehicle is decelerated through the friction of only two tyres on the road instead of four. If the road is wet this friction (or co-efficient of adhesion as it is called) may fall to only one-tenth of the value that applies if the road is dry. If the braking force exceeds the friction a skid occurs perhaps with fatal results. A skid is almost ALWAYS the result of bad driving. In an emergency bad driving may be excused, but only if the driver has been forced into a position from which he lacks the skill to extricate the car.

(ii) Rapid deceleration causes much more strain on the engine and transmission than rapid acceleration.

(iii) The clutch does not permit as "gentle" an application of the braking effort as does the foot pedal.

(iv) A vehicle reaches its maximum stability, and is most controllable only when power-driven.

(b) Changing down should be done :-

(i) Only at slow speeds except in an emergency.  
(below 20 m.p.h. for cars and vans,  
below 15 m.p.h. for lorries).

(ii) To gain acceleration or power on hills.

(iii) To enable engine to be used as a brake on steep or long grades.

(c) In turning corners the vehicle should be slowed down by taking the foot gradually off accelerator and allowing the engine to slow the vehicle down. Brakes should only be used to assist if distance is misjudged or in an emergency. Vehicle should reach its slow speed before reaching the corner than if necessary changed down to a lower gear, steadily power-driven or accelerated around corner according to condition of road. Normal driving speeds will then be restored.

(d) Quick acceleration and sudden braking are wasteful and expensive <sup>and</sup> are usually signs of bad driving.  
STOP WASTE.

4. ARMS

Rifle Bolt No A15010 has been found and is in Bn Q Store. Coys will advise by 1400 hrs 5 Jan 42 whether rifle No A15010 is on issue to one of its members.

PART 1B

1. BATTLE CASUALTY

WX5288 Sgt Lally D.A. B Coy Previously reported missing in action - now reported Died of Wounds 17 Sep 41 At Haupt Verb Pl, EL Adem.

2. PUNISHMENTS

WX9903 Pte Nelson J C. C Coy AML 3 days C.B. 1 Feb 42.  
WX4973 Pte Laming F.C. HQ Coy Unfit for duty by reason indulgence of alcoholic stimulants. 7 days C.B 31 Jan 42.

3. REJOINED UNIT

WX6983 Pte Wilson T.W. HQ Coy From 24 Aust Inf Bde. 29 Jan 42.  
WX7978 Pte Moore J.R. B Coy " " " "

4. TRANSFERS OUT

WX8971 Pte Challenger F.J. A Coy To HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde. 1 Feb 42.

DISTRIBUTION

CO, 2 i/c, RMO, RSM, IO, TO,  
24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt,  
2 Ech, File, Notice board,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D, (2 each)  
4 Pl, 10 Pl (1 each)

*[Signature]* Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

NOTICE

Australian Comforts Fund - The following Comforts have been distributed to Coys :-

Socks 200 prs.  
Balaclavas 60

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1  
No. 301

BY LT-COL J.E. LLOYD. D.S.O., M.C.

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. CHURCH PARADE SUNDAY 8 Feb 42.

0800 hrs Anglican and Protestant Denominations :

0800 hrs Holy Communion in YMCA Recreation Hut.

0900 hrs Church Parade in YMCA Recreation Hut. Parade to be formed up on main roadway near Hut at 0850 hrs.

Dress Service Dress, gaiters, belt and sidearms, hats turned up.

R.C. 1030 hrs. Mass in village Church at 24 Bde H.Q.

2. LEAVE BEIRUT

The tariff of 150 pts is for bed and breakfast only.

The midday and evening meals are priced at £ s 1 each.

3. BOUNDS

The Buffet at TRIPOLI STATION is OUT OF BOUNDS except to troops travelling and under control of R.T.O. ( Tripoli Port RO No. 62.)

4. TYPHOID

Typhoid Fever is very common in SYRIA - probably more so than would be expected from the number of cases reported.

It is imperative that all troops fully understand the danger and the way to avoid it.

(a) No water may be drunk from other than authorised water points unless it be (i) boiled or (ii) adequately chlorinated in a water cart.

(b) No salads or uncooked vegetables may be eaten unless first soaked in permanganate solution for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour.

(c) Flies must rigidly be prevented from having access to food or eating utensils.

(d) It should be clearly understood that Typhoid inoculation is NOT a complete protection, though it is of great value in reducing the number attacked, and also in lessening the severity of the disease.

5. BOUNDS

(a) The following cafes and Bars in TRIPOLI have been placed in bounds: -

Florida Cafe and Bar  
Aussie Bar and Cafe  
Refuge Bar  
The Diggers Home Bar  
Ajamis Tea Room  
Kookaburra Bar  
Casino Tripoli  
Egyptian Bar  
P/N/E Restuarant  
Oriental Patisserie  
Jallad Bar

Star Bar  
Baby Tea Room  
Patisserie Moderne  
Restuarant New Patisserie  
Amoyne and Hadid  
Golden Cup  
Antonios Kayrouz  
Hakims Bar and Restuarant  
Kardous Bros  
Middle East Allies Bar  
Australian's Bar

(b) All other cafes and Bars are placed out of bounds.

(c) The areas immediately surrounding LEGOULT and DE GAULLE Barracks known as QUOBHE is placed out of bounds.

6. BOTTLED LIQUOR

Soldiers are forbidden to carry bottled liquor.

PART 1B.

1. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX6884 Cpl Jamieson C.D. Hq Coy 4 Feb 42.  
 WX8351 Pte Derrington E.N. " " "  
 WX7604 " McNair W. A Coy 5 Feb 42.

2. PUNISHMENT

WX4676 Pte Thomas J.M. B Coy Failing to attend a parade.  
 7 days C.B. 3 Feb 42.

3. SCHOOLS AND COURSES

WX2090 Cpl Hampson W. D Coy No 3 Grenade Course MLWTS.  
 5-21 Jan 42. Qualified.

4. TRADE GROUPING

WX4928 Pte Salter W.E. Hq Coy Apptd A/TG ii Sig 3 Feb 42.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M.,  
 I.O., T.O., 24 Bde, Amenities Offr 24 Bde,  
 War Diary (2), Postal Cpl, Offrs mess, Sgts mess,  
 Band Sgt, 2 Ech, File, Notice bd,  
 Coys - Hq, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
 4 Pl & 10 Pl (1 each).

*Levy* Capt.  
 Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

NOTICE

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND Receipt is acknowledged of the following items  
 of sporting gear for the use of the Bn :-

Boots football	10 prs.
Socks sporting	20 "
Football	1
Soccer ball	1



6 Feb 42.

*War Diary*

2/28 AUST INF BN  
COY T.E.W.T.S. EL MINA

1. 2/28 Bn has been allocated the period 9/12 Feb (incl) in which to carry out Coy T.E.W.T.S. in the EL MINA Area. The T.E.W.T.S. will form the basis for a Bn T.E.W.T. on beach defence.
2. The exercise is designed to study the defence in conjunction with present Naval and C.D. dispositions of EL MINA port area.
3. Coys will conduct T.E.W.T.S. as under :-

B.Coy	plus	CC	1 Pl.	9 Feb 42.
C "	"	"	3 Pl.	10 "
D "	"	"	10 Pl.	11 "
A "	"	"	6 Pl	12 "

4. PERSONNEL TO ATTEND O.C. Coy - Pl Cmdrs plus one other rep. per Pl.  
1 "I" Sec and 1 Sig Sec personnel.

5. The T.E.W.T. will be conducted under Coy arrangements and will be directed by the O.C. Coy who will submit a summarised solution to Bn H.Q. by 1800 hrs of the day following the exercise.

6. TPT T/O will arrange for 20 cwt vehicle to report to respective Coy Area's at 0830 hrs on each day of T.E.W.T.

7. RATIONS Coys will be responsible for their own midday meal and will ration the tpt driver attached.

8. To enable Coy Cmdrs to prepare their respective T.E.W.T.S. all Coy Cmdrs will conduct a Recce of EL MINA area leaving Bn H.Q. at 0900 hrs on 8 Feb 42 under direction of Lt-col J.E. LLOYD. To facilitate above Coy Cmdrs will stage at Rear H.Q. night 7/8 Feb 42.

9. PERSONNEL TO ATTEND 8 FEB 42.

Bn 2 i/c, Adjnt, I.O., Coy Cmdrs, O.C. 4 Pl, R.M.O., and "I" Sgt.

10. Dispositions and relevant information as per para (2) above will be available on 8 Feb 42.

11. Q.M. to arrange for cut lunches 8 Feb 42.  
T.O. " " " Transport "

*Kennerly* Capt.  
Adjnt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, Adjnt,  
I.O., R.M.O., Q.M., T.O.,  
HQ Coy (3),  
A, B, C & D Coys (4 each)  
O.C. 4 Pl,  
24 Bde (2), War Diary (2),  
File (1), Spare (2).

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit.) For Week Ending *7 Feb 42*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	Majors... ..	<i>3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	Captains ...	<i>6</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	Lieutenants ...	<i>9</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	2nd Lieutenants ...	<i>19</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	Quartermasters ...	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	District Officers ...	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	TOTALS ... ..	<i>32</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
<i>WX 5281</i>	<i>Lieut Walker S.A.J.</i>	<i>2/28 Bn</i>	<i>24 Aust Inf Bn (K. School)</i>
<i>WX 7302</i>	<i>Stewart R.S.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>WX 4922</i>	<i>Osborne N.K.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-col		Lloyd J.E.	2/28 Bn	Yes		CO.
2		Maj		Cox J.P.	"	-		2/c
3		"		Brennan J.G.	"	No		Eng & Camouflage School
4		"		Burkine M.A.	"	No		Det. to 24 Bde
5		Capt		Thompson J.B.	"	Yes		OC 3. Coy
6		"		Simpson B.	"	-		OC C Coy
7		"		Northwood V.R.	"	-		OC A Coy
8		"		Sturhouse T.R.	"	-		A/O.C. B Coy
9		"		Coppock H.T.	"	-		2/c 3 Coy
10		"		Newbery J.C.	"	-		" A Coy
11		Lieut		Keall G.	"	-		I.O.
12		"	T/capt	Taylor A.L.F.	"	-		2/c C Coy
13		"	"	Lamb L.	"	-		Adjt
14		"		Macel P.	"	-		Pl. Comdr
15		"		Freedman H.G.	"	-		"
16		"		Waring J.E.	"	No		Malaria School
17		"		Loughlove E.A.	"	Yes		Pl. Comdr
18		"	T/capt	Yates G.H.	"	-		Q.M.
19		"		Vellis C.C.	"	-		Pl. Comdr
20		"		Head J.M.	"	-		"
21		"		Hall R.J.	"	Yes		14 Pl. Comdr School
22		"		Harris H.J.C.	"	Yes		"
23		"		Gamble H.F.	"	-		"
24		"		Walker S.A.J.	"	No		Int School
25		"		Hickey M.	"	Yes		Pl. Comdr
26		"		Stewart R.S.	"	No		Regt offr Course
27		"		Perry S.L.W.	"	Yes		Pl. Comdr
28		"		Piper D.W.	"	-		"
29		"		Harrod E.C.	"	-		"
30		"		Eastman E.A.	"	-		"
31		"		Bird N.H.T.	"	-		"
32		"		Green G.R.	"	-		"
33								
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
OX 190109	Capt	Paidaris K.W.	2/3 Fd Amb.	11.7.41	R.M.O.
WX 2409	Chaplain	W. McDonald	A.A.C.H.D.	26.7.40	Chaplain
WX 3499	Lieut	Baker G.E.S.	24 A.I.T.Bn	18.10.41	} ops over W.G.
WX 3512	"	Chadwick	"	19.10.41	
WX 6572	"	Morris	"	12.11.41	
WX 10763	"	Draper	"	19.11.41	
WX 4923	"	Robson	"	19.12.41	
WX 8803	"	Parkinson C.W.R.	"	30.12.41	
WX 11887	"	Thomas	"		

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
(Unit.)  
7 Feb 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature of Commander.)  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit), *7 Feb.* 19 *42* (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1	-	-
W.Os. Class II.	6	-	-
W.Os. Class III.	-	-	-
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	4	-	1
Staff Serjeants	-	-	-
Serjeants	32	1	-
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	-	-	-
Corporals <i>+ 4/Sgts</i>	68	-	1
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	680	-	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

\*These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
<i>Sgt.</i>	<i>1 AAFC</i>	<i>cpl</i>	<i>1 AAOC (Armoured)</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>1 AAFC</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>1 AA Postal C (9 Div)</i>
<i>Cpl</i>	<i>1 " (Chiroprapist)</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>1 AA Ch D (batman - Dr)</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>1 AAOC (Fitter MV)</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>1 AAFC (Orderly)</i>
<i>Ptes</i>	<i>2 " "</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>1 " (Shoemaker)</i>		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.** *(see Schools)*

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known)
<i>WX 6463</i>	<i>4/cpl</i>	<i>Ausill CS</i>	<i>2/28 Bn</i>	<i>24 Aust Inf Bn</i>
<i>WX 6813</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>Paterson JC</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>WX 5036</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Mawin LR</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>WX 4461</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Pallett J.L.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>WX 7524</i>	<i>Cpl</i>	<i>Meyerson AK</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>WX 4426</i>	<i>4/cpl</i>	<i>Ellis J.A.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.								REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ...																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ...																				
" " (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ...																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ...																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ...																				
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).																				

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

Date of Despatch

7 Feb 42

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Commander.

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

*War  
Diary*

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1A  
No 302

BY LT-COL J.E. LLOYD, D.S.O., M.C.      COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. PHOTOGRAPHY

In future all photographs to be developed or printed will be handed to Coy Orderly Rooms and will be forwarded with the money to the Bn Int Sec. All photographs must go through the Int Sec or otherwise disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.

2. AIR MAIL

(a) The temporary suspension of the AIR MAIL service to troops abroad, has been announced in AUSTRALIA.

(b) As the AIRMAIL service still operates for a considerable part of the distance to AUSTRALIA, AIR MAIL will still be accepted for transmission to AUSTRALIA.

3. ROADS

Complaints have been received that stone and chippings stacked at the roadside for purposes of road maintenance and repair are being removed by units.

This practice will cease forthwith : and disciplinary action will be taken in every case against offenders.

4. BAD MONEY : NOTES AND COINS IN SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.

(a) Notes :

There are in circulation many notes made up of two different half notes. The Banks will not and Army Cashiers cannot accept these as currency and all ranks are warned to refuse such notes as tender.

(b) Coin :

There is a good deal of counterfeit coin in circulation. This can be detected as follows :-

- (i) The detail of the impression is less clear cut.
- (ii) The milling is generally irregular; on the slant instead of being vertical.
- (iii) The thickness and diameter are often slightly smaller than those of genuine pieces.

All ranks should exercise caution in accepting change.

PART 1B

1. INTER COY TRANSFERS

WX4973	Pte Laming F.C.	HQ Coy	To C Coy	9 Feb 42.
WX6901	" Gill B.H.	Bn.HQ "	To D "	"

2. PUNISHMENTS

WX3914	Pte Evans W.E.A.	C Coy	Disobeyed a lawful command. Fined £1.	9 Feb 42.
WX4902	" Kidd J.	"	Neglected to keep his rifle in his custody. Admonished.	9 Feb 42.
WX7056	" Barnett H.E.	HQ Coy	AWL. Fined £3. Automatic forfeiture 2 days pay.	1 Feb 42.
WX7056	" Barnett H.E.	"	Used insubordinate language. Fined £2.14 days C.B.	10 Feb 42.

3. TRADE GROUPING

WX7344 Pte Lester J.B. D Coy. Relinquished TG 11. Cook.  
7 Sep 41.  
WX4973 " Laming F.C. HQ Coy Relinquished TG 11. Cook.  
7 Feb 42.

4. TRANSFERS OUT

WX7335 L/Cpl Eastman W.H. Bn HQ. To HQ 9 Aust Div 9 Feb 42.

DISTRIBUTION

CO, 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M.,  
I.O., T.O., 24 Bde, Amenities Offr, 24 Bde,  
War Diary (2), Postal Cpl, Offrs mess, Sgts mess,  
Band Sgt 2 Ech, Notice bd,  
Coys- H, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
4 Pl & 10 Pl (1 each).

*W. J. Eastman* Capt.  
Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

NOTICE

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND - Receipt is acknowledged of the following comforts which have been distributed to Coys :-

Tobacco ( 2 oz.) 830 tins,  
Papers, cigarette 1660 pkts.

PART 1 A CONTINUED.

1. SHAVING

It has been noticed that certain personnel are neglecting to shave regularly.

Coy Cnds will ensure that all ranks shave at least once per day.

2. AIRING OF BLANKETS

Coy Cnds will arrange for blankets to be aired during periods of fine weather.

11 Feb 42.

MacGarry

2/28 AUST INF BNTRAINING EXERCISE - BN IN ATTACK 13 Feb 42.

Ref Map.

TRIPOLI SPECIAL

(Sheet 2) 1/25000.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS1. EXERCISE

2/28 Bn (represented by A Coy and C Coy) will attack Trig 571 (177279) and prepared defensive positions vicinity feature 440 (17632789).

DIRECTOR Lt-col. J.E. LLOYD.

2. TIME AND PLACE FOR EXERCISE TO COMMENCE

At Track Junc. (17672819) vicinity D Coy Mule Lines at 1100 hrs 13 Feb 42 where tps taking part will assemble and receive opening situation from Director.

3. TPS TAKING PART

A Coy 2/28 Bn plus det. 3 Pl (attached) as attacking

C " " " " " " " " ) Tps.

D " " " " 10 Pl - to occupy defensive posns as from 1100 hrs 13 Feb 42.

1 Bty 2/8 Fd Regt. )

1 Tp. 3 /TK Regt. )

1 Pl. 2/2 M.G. Bn. )

Det. 2/7 Fd Coy. )

1 Coy 2/3 Fd Amb. )

Supporting arms to be represented if available.

4. UMPIRES

B Coy 2/28 Bn will supply umpires as follows :-

Officers 3 - N.C.O.s 5.

who will move in accordance with verbal instructions already issued.

Umpires will wear white armbands and Hats F.S.

5. REPRESENTATION OF FIREOWN TPSENEMY

Rifle - Bolt action

Mirrors, Flags.

L.M.G. Rattles or Tins.

Bolt action.

NOTE Coy Comds will ensure that all ball arm is withdrawn from Tps taking part and an arms inspection is held prior to commencement of exercise.

6. DRESS

Battle Order - Steel Helmet - Respirator - Water Bottles filled - L.M.G.s will be carried.

NOTE Enemy will wear Hats F.S.

7. RATIONS

2/28 Bn - Coys will arrange for eat lunches to be carried.

Supporting arms - Unit arrangements.

8. SECURITY

Coys will ensure that adequate picquets are detailed to remain in Coy areas for security purposes.

9. TPT.

T/O will arrange for tpt to report to B Coy H.Q. at 0830 hrs.

13 Feb 42 for movement of Umpires.

.....



(2)

Instructions ref Preliminary Recce 12 Feb 42.

To enable Umpires and Supporting Arms personnel (if available) to familiarise themselves with exercise the Director will conduct a preliminary recce of area on 12 Feb 42.

The following will R.V. at Rd and Rail Junc LL ABIL (17382862) at 1000 hrs 12 Feb 42 :-

Bn 2 i/c.  
Adjt.  
I.O.  
Umpires.

Representatives from :  
2/8 Fd Regt. )  
3 A./TK Regt. ) If available.  
2/2 M.G. Bn. )  
2/7 Fd Coy. )  
2/3 Fd Amb. )

Rations Cut lunches to be carried.

Tpt. T/O to provide tpt for Umpires to report B Coy H.Q. at 0830 hrs 12 Feb 42.

*L. J. Lamb* Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aus Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, I.O., R.M.O., Adjt,  
Q.M., I.O.,  
Hq Coy (3), A, B, C & D Coys (2 each),  
24 Bde (2), War Diary (2),  
File (1), Spares (6).

7

SECRET

12 Feb 42.

2/28 AUST INF BN

TRAINING INSTRUCTION

1. 24 Aust Inf Bde have instructed that training will be accelerated immediately.

To facilitate above it is anticipated that local labour will be employed to complete defences and when this becomes available Coys will ensure that the following personnel are detailed to supervise the local labourers while they are working:

One officer per Coy  
One Senior NCO per Pl.  
One L/Cpl or senior Pte per sec.

2. TNG PROGRAMME

Tng will continue with a view to completing the tng detailed in 24 Bde Tng Instruction No. 3, a copy of which has been circulated to Coys. In each week a Bn exercise will be conducted. This will be prepared by and notified from Bn H.Q.

3. COY TNG

Coys will submit by 1200 hrs each Sunday a syllabus covering the proposed tng for the following week. Coys will conduct at least one Coy exercise per week (Coy forming part of Bn) and will concentrate on rectifying faults specified in para 1 of 24 Bde Instruction No 3.

4. RIFLE RANGLES

As soon as amm becomes available as much practice as possible will be carried out. Separate instructions will issue later in regard to classification ranges which are situated in TRIPOLI Area. Troops will continually be exercised in musketry instruction, especially in the practice of rapid manipulation of bolt. Instruction in L.M.G. (Bren) and T.S.M.G. also 2" Mortar is also to be included in Syllabus.

5. SALUTING

Saluting throughout the Bn is very lax. All officers will ensure that this is insisted upon.

6. DISCIPLINE

There is a definite slackening off of discipline and it must be impressed upon all ranks the definite necessity of this in all phases.

DISTRIBUTION

HQ, A, B, C & D Coys,  
4 Pl, 10 Pl, R.M.O., Q.M., I.O.,  
24 Aust Inf Bde, R.S.M.,  
✓ War Diary (2), File

*Lieutenant* Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

War Diary

8

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O No 1687

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
13 Feb 42 (5<sup>th</sup> Day)

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1  
No 303

BY LT-COL J.E. LLOYD, D.S.O., M.C. CCMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. ALTERATION IN CAMP ROUTINE

Reveille 0630 hrs.  
Adm Pde 0645 hrs.

2. TATTOO

Coys will ensure that Tattoo Roll Calls are reintroduced if not already in operation. Personnel absent without leave at Tattoo will be charged accordingly.

3. CANCELLATION OF NIGHT LEAVE

Owing to the bad behaviour of a proportion of troops on TRIPOLI leave no further NIGHT leave will be granted until further orders.

4. DRESS

The wearing of British pattern Battle Dress in A.I.F. units will be limited strictly to C.R. personnel for whom correct sizes of Australian S.D. uniform are not obtainable. A.I.F. Officers will not wear British pattern Battle Dress.

5. ARMY FILM AND PHOTO UNIT

- (a) A branch of Public Relations called the Army Film and Photo Unit is about to be formed on W.E. ME/266/1/
- (b) The primary object of this unit is to obtain records of the battle; material thus produced will be used both for publicity purposes and for War Office use. It is hoped by this means to obtain valuable publicity for the work and daily life of the Army, and to counteract the propoganda of the enemy.
- (c) The Unit is composed of sections, each of an Officer and 6 Sgt. cameramen, with certain controlling staff. Sections will be allotted to H.Qs. of Formations, etc., as decided by the controlling staff. In principle, an assistant director and one section will be allotted to a Corps H.Q. and one section to each Division. Out of the Division section, personnel will be sub-allotted to Brigades as required. The sections and personnel will be administered by the Formations to which they are attached.
- (d) The H.Q. Formations, etc., to which sections and personnel are attached is not in any way responsible for the subjects photographed or for censorship. The responsibility for submission to censorship authorities lies with A.F.P.U., as does responsibility for delivery and collection of all photographic material.
- (e) It is vital for the success of this scheme that the fullest assistance and co-operation should be given to this unit by any Formation or Unit with which it is working.
- (f) The photographers are in no sense civilians, but should be regarded as military personnel armed with cameras. They will be trained in the principles of warfare and in the tactics and formation of units in action and in how to use their cameras to the best advantage.
- (g) All ranks in the M.F. are directed to give the utmost assistance to this Unit in order to ensure the success of a scheme which can make so great a contribution to the war effort.

6. VILLAGES - OUT OF BOUNDS

Para 4, R.O. 295 is repeated :-

"Coys are reminded that all villages are Out of Bounds except where special advice is given.

Particular attention will be paid to preventing tps from entering MADJLAYA"

The village of ZGHORTA is included in this prohibition and is Out of Bounds.

7. CHURCH SERVICE - SUNDAY 15 Feb. 42

R.C. 1030 hrs - Mass in village church at 24 Bde H.Q.

1. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX6009	Pte Board F.G.	B Coy	9 Feb 42.
WX11933	" Cochrane S.R.	A "	12 Feb 42.

2. PUNISHMENTS

WX5131	Pte O'Sullivan M.J.	Hq Coy	AWL. Fined 10/- forfeit 1 days pay 11 Feb 42.
WX10651	" Brown W.M.	A "	AWL. Fined 10/-. 11 Feb 42.
WX8931	" Lennox J.	A "	AWL. Fined £1. Forfeit 1 days pay. 11 Feb 42.
WX4682	" Ferguson W.J.	A "	AWL. Fined £1. Forfeit 1 days pay. 11 Feb 42.
WX4679	" Hunter J.	A "	AWL. Fined 10/-. 11 Feb 42.
WX4679	" Hunter J.	A "	AWL. Fined £1. Forfeit 1 days pay. 11 Feb 42.

3. SCHOOLS AND COURSES

WX5281	Lieut S.A.J. Walker	Hq Coy	No 2 Bde and Regtl Course AIF (ME) Int. Sch. Qualified. Q 1. 4 Jan/2 Feb 42.
WX4481	Cpl Winter I.C.	Hq Coy	ME WTS. No 33 Mortar Course. 1-17 Jan 42. Qualified.
WX2090	Cpl Hampson W.	D Coy	ME WTS. No 8 Grenade Course. 5-21 Jan 42. Qualified.
WX6295	WO ii. Beames H.A.	B Coy	No 3 CSMs Course 21 Dec 41 - 1 Feb 42. Qualified.
WX7304	Sgt Hinson G.B.	A Coy	No 3 CSMs Course 21 Dec 41 - 1 Feb 42. Qualified.

4. SECONDMENTS-AIF LIST NO. 67.

WX3381 Capt A.V. Tunetili D Coy. Transferred from Regtl Supernumerary List and seconded 25 Jan 42.

5. PROMOTION - AIF LIST NO. 67.

WX3421 Capt C.H.B. Norman To be temporary Major and remains seconded 30 Jan 42.

DISTRIBUTION

CO, 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Post 1 Cpl,  
Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt,  
2 Ech, Notice bd,  
Coys - Hq, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each).

*Lennox Lamb*  
Capt.  
Adjnt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit.) For Week Ending *14 Feb 42.*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	Majors... ..	<i>3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	Captains ... ..	<i>6</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>7/capts incl QM</i> Lieutenants ... ..	<i>3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	2nd Lieutenants ... ..	<i>19</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	Quartermasters ... ..	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	District Officers ... ..	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	TOTALS ... ..	<i>32</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>WX 3404</i>	<i>Capt Coppock N.T.</i>	<i>2/28 Bn</i>	<i>14.2.42</i>	<i>Detached for duty with</i>
<i>WX 3431</i>	<i>Lieut Langrove SA</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Infy Cadre returning to Australia (pending secondment)</i>

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
<i>WX 5281</i>	<i>Lieut Walker</i>	<i>L.A.I.</i>	<i>2/28 Bn 24 Aust Inf Bn</i>
<i>WX 7302</i>	<i>Stewart</i>	<i>RS</i>	<i>School</i>
<i>WX 4922</i>	<i>Thorne</i>	<i>N.K.</i>	<i>"</i>

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt.-col		Lloyd JE	2/28 Bn	yes		Co.
2		Maj		Cox JP	"	"		2/c
3		"		Brennan JG	"	No		Ing & Canon School
4		"		Burnham MA	"	"		Det to 24 Bde
5		Capt		Thompson JB	"	yes		OC D Coy
6		"		Simpson B	"	"		OC C Coy
7		"		Northwood VR	"	"		OC A Coy
8		"		Stenhouse TR	"	"		A/O.C. B Coy
9		"		Coppock HT	"	No		Det to TNG CADRE
10		"		Newbery JC	"	yes		2/c A Coy
11		Lieut		Zeall G.	"	"		I.O.
12		"	T/capt	Taylor ALF	"	"		2/c C Coy
13		"	"	Lamb L	"	"		Adjt
14		"	"	Masel P.	"	"		Pl. Comdr
15		"	"	Freedman H.J.	"	"		"
16		"	"	Waring S.	"	No		Malaria School
17		"	"	Jonesgrove EA	"	No		Det to TNG CADRE
18		"	T/capt	Lafales GH	"	yes		QM
19		"	"	Ellis C.E.	"	"		Pl. Comdr
20		"	"	Head J.M.	"	"		"
21		"	"	Hall R.J.	"	"		2/c B Coy
22		"	"	Hornis H.C.	"	"		Pl. Comdr
23		"	"	Gamble H.F.	"	"		"
24		"	"	Walker S.A.J.	"	No		Det School
25		"	"	Hickey M.	"	yes		Pl. Comdr
26		"	"	Stewart R.S.	"	No		Regt. off course
27		"	"	Parry G.L.W.	"	yes		Pl. Comdr
28		"	"	Piper D.W.	"	"		"
29		"	"	Harris E.C.	"	"		"
30		"	"	Eastman EA	"	"		"
31		"	"	Bird N.H.T.	"	"		"
32		"	"	Greaves G.R.	"	"		"
33								
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Army to	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.				
Qx 19059	Capt	Quiddis KW	2/3rd Amb	11.7.41	RMO
WX 3409	Chaplain	Wardlaw BT	A.A.Ch. D	26.7.40	Chaplain
WX 7499	Lieut	Baker G.E.S.	24th L.S. Bn	18.10.41	
WX 8125	"	Agnew R.H.	"	19.10.41	
WX 10568	"	Woods A.D.	"	15.11.41	
WX 4922	"	Stome J.W.	"	18.11.41	
WX 6803	"	Patterson C.W.	"	17.12.41	
WX 11087	"	Thomas E.	"	30.12.41	

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
(Unit.)  
14 Feb 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

GONWARD Lt.-col  
(Signature of Commander)  
24 Aust Inf Bde.  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

2/28 Aust. Inf. Bn. (Unit). 14 Feb 1942. (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

Table with 4 columns: 1. Detail, 2. Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached), 3. Surplus to Establishment, 4. Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments). Rows include W.Os. Class I-III, Staff Serjeants, Serjeants, Buglers, Trumpeters, etc., Corporals, Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc., and a TOTALS row.

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Table with 4 columns: Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong, Detail, Unit and Corps to which they belong. Handwritten entries include Sgt. AAFC, AAFC, (Chiroprodist), (Orderly), AAFC (Fitter MV), and (Shoemaker).

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Table with 5 columns: Army No., Rank, Name and Initials, Corps, Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known). The table is currently blank.

2/28 Aust. Inf Bn Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.									REMARKS.	
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusillers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusillers, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ... ..																				
"    " (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ... ..																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ... ..																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers ... ..																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties... ..																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ... ..																				1 23 25
TOTALS (to agree with Col- umns 3 and 4 of Part A).																				1 23 25

2/28 Aust. Inf Bn Unit.

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch ~~2/28~~ 14 Feb 42

24 Aust. Inf Bn  
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.



*War Diary*

*10*

SECRET  
15 Feb 42.

2/28 AUST INF B N

BN T.E.W.T. BEACH DEFENCE 17 Feb 42.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Ref Map LEVANT 1/50000 TRIPOLI SHEET.

1. A Bn TEWT on Beach Defence will be conducted on 17 Feb 42.

Director - Maj J.P.Cox

Opening situation and narrative will be issued at RV.

2. Personnel to attend.

Coy Cmdrs - Pl Officers or A/Pl Cmdrs. RMO RSM. Representatives of supplementary arms (if available)

3. Time and Place for commencement of TEWT.

Coy personnel will move independently to RV at CARACOL (15912741) to report at 1000 hrs 17 Feb 42.

4. Tpt

T/O will arrange for necessary Tpt to report to Coy areas at 0830 Hrs 17 Feb 42.

5. Rations

Coys will be responsible for their own mid-day meal.

*Leyman Lamb* Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

DISIRIBUTION

CO, 2i/c, Adjt,  
H Q Coy (4), OC 4 Pl (1).  
A, B, C, & D Coys (4 each).  
IO, QM, TO, RMO, RSM,  
24 B de, (2) War Diary (2) File (1)

2/28 AUST INF BN  
OPENING SITUATION

REF MAP - LEVANT - TRIPOLI SHEET 1/50000

1. Early in the Spring, Germany invaded Turkey, who capitulated after four weeks of heavy fighting. The enemy then deployed a force including two Armd Divs, six divs and one Alpine Div against Syria, of which one armd regt two divs and an Alpine Div invested TRIPOLI Fortress from the NORTH, and NE.
2. TRIPOLI Fortress was reinforced by one Div, an Army Tk Bn and a proportion of Corps tps early in Feb, and 24 Aust Inf Bde placed in res in the area ZGHORTA 166273 - MADJLAYA 164275
3. During the past week, enemy attacks in force on Sectors A and B have been beaten off with the loss of no important ground.
4. Assembly of tps, tank landing craft and Danube barges at LATTAGUIE is reported by our agents.

NARRATIVE

The following messages were received by H.Q.  
2/28 Aust Inf Bn from 24 Aust Inf Bde at times shown:-

1. (Date) 16 Feb 42.  
Strat/R timed 0815 hrs 16 Feb reports one cruiser three destroyers three small ships off ALEXANDRETTA (\*) Air photos show concentration in LATTAGUIE harbour following types 30 TLC 40 ALC or MLC 20 barges (\*) Flak heavy over LATTAGUIE  
(Time of origin) 1930 hrs.
2. (Date) 17 Feb 42.  
Enemy submarine sighted off EL MINA dawn today (\*) Subsequent search located infra red lamp on buoy at point 15612759 (\*) Enemy agent captured in grove 15752727 at 0700 hrs with unmarked map TRIPOLI pack wireless and red white and green lamps  
(Time of origin) 0745 hrs.
3. (Date) 17 Feb 42.  
Warning order (\*) bde will take up posn for beach defence SOUTH of EL MINA (\*) defences to be occupied by 1700 hrs today (\*) right 2/28 bn from excl EL MINA rocks 15902764 to point 15792736 incl left 2/32 bn from excl point 15792736 to incl point 301 (15612701) res 2/43 bn in area point 243 (15902720) (\*) orders by L O in 30 mins ack  
(Time of origin) 0800 hrs.
4. (Date) 17 Feb 42.  
Following under comd from 0800 hrs (\*) one tp 2/8 fd regt one tp 3 A Tk regt one sec 2/7 fd Coy two pls 2/2 MG bn one pl 103 gen tpt coy reporting at earliest  
(Time of origin) 0805 hrs.

PROBLEM 1.

As a result of information shown in Narrative, as C.O. of 2/28 Aust Inf Bn what action would you take ?  
Time allowed 15 min.

PROBLEM 2.

On arrival of Recce Gp at R.V. what tasks would the C.O. 2/28 Bn allot to the Supporting Arms and what Coy dispositions would he decide upon ?

(Show dispositions on trace)  
Time allowed 1½ hrs.

PROBLEM 3.

On arrival of O Gp the C.O. issued orders for the occupation of the area in accordance with solution to Problem (2). As O.C. of a rifle Coy what action would you take and what orders would you issue ?

Time allowed 15 min.

PROBLEM 4

24 Bde have specified a certain priority of work.

- (a) By whom would these tasks be performed ?
- (b) How would the CONCERTINA wire be layed in the water and what other water obstacles could be erected ?
- (c) What type of beach wiring would you erect and where would it be erected ?
- (d) There are 2000 A/Tk Mines and 780 ANTI PERSONNEL Mines allocated to the Bn.  
Where would these be layed ? Who would lay them and what type of fields would be used ?

Time allowed 1 hr.

16 Feb 42.

SECRET

17 Feb 42.

2/28 AUST

BN EXERCISE - WITHDRAWAL FROM OUTPOST POSITION

REF MAP. - TRIPOLI Special Sheet (2) 1/50000

1. OBJECT

The object of the exercise is to :-

Practice and exercise the Battalion in the withdrawal of a company and attached troops, from outpost positions at Trig 571 (17762797) and 440 Feature (176278) to previously prepared alternative positions at Pt 603 (17622759).

2. DATE AND PLACE FOR EXERCISE

19 Feb 42 - Battalion Defence Area.

3. TROOPS TAKING PART

2/28 Aust Inf Bn.  
2 Pls 2/2 M.G. Bn.  
Rep. Fd Coy.  
Rep. 2/3 Fd Amb.

4. PLACE OF ASSEMBLY AND TIME TO COMMENCE

<u>Time</u>		<u>Place</u>
0900 hrs.	(a) All troops occupying positions NORTH of RIVER BAIRD.	17742793
1000 hrs.	(b) Directing Staff and Umpires. All troops taking part.	Occupying Defensive Positions.

5. DIRECTING STAFF AND UMPIRES

Director. Maj. J.P. COX.  
Chief Umpire. Capt. T.R. STENHOUSE.  
B Coy to provide in addition to Chief Umpire :-  
3 Officers  
2 Senior N.C.Os.

Directing Staff and Umpires will wear white armband and Hats F.S.

6. REPRESENTATION OF FIRE

OWN TPS

Rifle - Bolt action  
L.M.G. - Rattles or Tins.

NOTE Coy Comds will ensure that all ball amm is withdrawn from Tps taking part and an Arms inspection is held prior to commencement of exercise.

7. DRESS

Battle Order - Steel Helmet - Respirator - Water Bottles filled - L.M.G.s. will be carried.

8. RATIONS

Outpost troops and Directing Staff to carry midday meal.  
Other tps - Coy arrangements.

9. TPT

T/O to arrange for tpt to be available at B Coy H.Q. at 0700 hrs 19 Feb 42 to convey Umpires to D Coy Area.

10. SECURITY

coating Outpost positions O/C D Coy will ensure sufficient personnel remain in Coy Area for security purposes.

DISTRIBUTION.

C.O., 2 i/c, I.O., R.M.O., Adjt,  
Q.M., T.O.,  
HQ, A, B, C & D Coys, 24 Bde (2), War Diary (2), File (1).

*[Signature]*  
Admin Comd 2488 Aust Inf Bn. Maj.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

- 0900 hrs. Director gives opening situation and explanation of exercise to Outpost tps.  
Note: Coy Comds give explanation of exercise to individual companies.
- 1000 hrs. Troops in occupation of position.
- 1005 hrs. Withdrawal from 571 ( ) commences.
- 1015 hrs. Commence withdrawal from 440 feature.
- 1130 hrs. Withdrawal from 440 feature complete and all troops across bridges over RIVER BARID.
- 1230 hrs. D Coy in position Feature 603.
- 1245 hrs. Coy Comds. A and C Coy and Umpires report to Director at 603 Feature.
- 1300 hrs. Director's comments.
- 1330 hrs. Outpost troops return to Outpost Area.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 304

BY MAJ. J.P. CEX

ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. CARE OF RESPIRATORS

Inspections have disclosed that excessive damage is being caused to respirators through carelessness. Eye pieces are being broken by :-

- (1) Not placing anti dim container in correct position (eg) in loop in bottom of container.
- (2) Not keeping Anti-gas Ointment in correct compartment.
- (3) Carrying tobacco tins etc in haversack.

Coys will conduct periodic inspections and take disciplinary action against offenders.

2. PART 1 B

1. INTER COY TRANSFERS

WX3609	L/Cpl Mackie F.	HQ Coy	To B Coy 16 Feb 42. Remains detached to HQ Coy.
WX5438	Pte Webber H.L.	HQ Coy	To C Coy 16 Feb 42. Remains detached to HQ Coy.

2. APPOINTMENTS

WX4716	Pte Chadwick A.W.	HQ Coy	Apptd L/Cpl	14 Feb 42.
WX6598	" Wilson F.G.	Bn HQ.	" "	"
WX7103	Cpl Browne J.V.	HQ Coy	" L/Sgt	"
WX7990	Pte Wilkinson D.	C Coy	" L/Cpl	"
WX5954	" Drakes H.B.	"	" "	"
WX6100	" Wilson L.G.	"	" "	"
WX6833	" Smith W.R.	"	" "	"

3. DETACHED FOR DUTY

WX3404	Capt Coplock H.T.	D Coy	To Tng Cadre	14 Feb 42.
WX3431	Lieut Lovegrove E.A.	"	" " "	"
WX5477	WO ii Wedgwood C.V.	"	" " "	"
WX5306	Cpl Chinn J.D.	A Coy	" " "	"

4. PROMOTIONS

WX7394	A/Cpl Wade S.K.	C Coy	Rank confirmed	14 Feb 42.
WX5419	L/Cpl Beatson W.A.	"	To be A/Cpl	"
WX6366	" Rea G.C.	"	" " "	"
WX6614	" Smith H.H.	"	" " "	"

5. PUNISHMENTS

WX4987	Pte Brown W.E.	HQ Coy	AWL. Fined £1./	14 Feb 42.
WX4987	" " "	"	Resisting an escort. Fined £1. 14 days C.B.	14 Feb 42.
WX2934	" Dalton W.S.	A Coy	AWL. Fined £1.	15 Feb 42.
WX7859	" Arnold T.	"	Unfit for duty by reason of previous indulgence of alcoholic stimu- lants. Fined £1.	15 Feb 42.
WX4969	" Brown W.J.	"	AWL. Fined £2.	15 Feb 42. -forf 2
WX7899	" Ballingall S.H.	"	AWL. Fined £1.	15 Feb 42. (days pay)
WX10673	" Baker S.P.	"	AWL. Fined £1.	15 Feb 42.
WX6022	" Noonan A.H.	D Coy	AWL. Fined 10/-.	Forfeit 1 days pay 15 Feb 42.
WX9627	" Clark G.H.	"	Absent from parade. Fined £1.	15 Feb 42.
WX5129	" Young W.A.	"	AWL. Fined 10/-.	Forfeit 1 days pay 15 Feb 42.
WX7013	" Miller H.K.	"	AWL. Fined 10/-.	Forfeit 1 days pay 15 Feb 42.

P.T.O.

5. cont.

WX7452	Pte Gullefer J.	B Coy	AWL. Fined 10/-, Forfeit 2 days pay. 15 Feb 42.
WX6095	" Smith J.R.	D Coy	AWL. Fined 10/-, Forfeit 1 days pay. 15 Feb 42.
WX5154	" Mahar F.E.	"	AWL. Fined 10/-, Forfeit 1 days pay. 15 Feb 42.
WX13218	" Oliver T.W.	"	Absent from parade. Fined £1. 15 Feb 42.
WX13244	" Swain R.	"	Absent from parade. Fined £1. 15 Feb 42.
WX10061	" Daglish H.	"	do.
WX13225	" McIntyre F.	"	do.
WX8953	" Hall R.V.	"	Without orders left his sentry post. Fined £2. 15 Feb 42.
WX9627	" Clark G.H.	"	Drunk and failed to appear on parade. Fined 5/-. 15 Feb 42.
WX9627	" " "	"	Without orders left his sentry post. Fined £2. 15 Feb 42.

6. TRADE GROUPING

WX3609	L/Cpl Mackie F.	B Coy	apptd TG iii Dr.Mech. 16 Feb 42.
WX5438	Pte Webber H.L.	C Coy	" " " " " "

DISTRIBUTION

CO, 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt,  
 2 Ech, Notice bd, File,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
 4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each).

*Lennon Lamb.* Capt.  
 Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 305

BY MAJ. J.P. COX

ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. LEAVE - BEIRUT

Subsistence is not payable in respect of leave spent by A.I.F. personnel in BEIRUT.

2. DRESS - OFFICERS

Revolvers will be carried by all officers in M.E.F. when on duty, and when proceeding to and from their duty.

3. FROST PRECAUTIONS - Middle East G.O. 1195/41 is republished for information and compliance :

"1. The attention of all Commanding Officers is directed to Chapter IV of the pamphlet entitled "Inspection, Maintenance and Care of Army Vehicles (Wheeled)", which deals with precautions to be taken against frost. All units should be conversant with the information, in order to meet any emergency. Constant vigilance is required on the part of all ranks to prevent damage due to frost. All cases brought to notice should be the subject of investigation, and disciplinary action taken when it is shown that the cause is due to culpable neglect to comply with instructions and regulations.

2. Apart from disciplinary measures, financial liability may be incurred by an officer under Section 137 of the Army Act for any loss, damage or destruction caused to Government vehicles occasioned by neglect on his part. Such negligence may be due to failure on the part of the responsible officer to publish to the Unit under his command, the frost precautions to be carried out or failure to ensure by sufficient supervision that such precautions are being observed.

4. MISUSE OF W.D. TRANSPORT

A.C.I. 649 is republished for urgent compliance by all troops in Middle East.

"1. An increasing number of cases of misuse of W.D. transport are being brought to notice. Misuse includes not only the employment of transport for purposes which have been strictly forbidden, but also flagrant mishandling amounting practically to wilful damage, during authorised journeys.

2. In view of the imperative need of economy, both in the expenditure of petrol and oil and in resources of mechanical vehicles, offences of this nature are of particular gravity.

3. It is clear to all units for what journeys W.D. vehicles are not to be used and that a properly completed Transport Work Ticket (AF G 3518) must be in possession of every driver of a W.D. vehicle on an authorised journey.

4. In addition to any other action which is taken with this object, the fullest use must be made of the Military Police for the purposes of checking up on all W.D. transport at uncertain intervals. Any breach of regulations or of instructions brought to notice as a result of these checks, or in any other manner, will be dealt with immediately from a disciplinary point of view".

Coy Comds will be held directly responsible for the contents of the above republished A.C.I. being brought to the notice of all ranks under their command.

P.T.O.



PART 1B

1. INTER COY TRANSFERS

WX5272 Lieut Chadwick R.F. C Coy To D Coy 18 Feb 42.  
WX10527 Pte McWilliam W. " " " "

2. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX4997 L/Cpl Hutchinson W. HQ Coy 16 Feb 42.  
WX6187 Pte Bell J.L. " 17 Feb 42.  
WX4711 " Backhouse J.W. " 3 Feb 42.

3. PUNISHMENTS

WX6549 Pte McGrade E.L. A Coy Failed to obey an order in that he consumed intoxicating liquor obtained from a local vendor. AA 40. Admonished. 18 Feb 42.  
WX4722 " MacPherson H.J.J. do.  
WX4682 " Ferguson W.J. do.  
WX7255 " Grafton H. do.  
WX7397 " Fitzgerald P. HQ Coy. do.  
WX5131 " OSullivan M.J. " do.

4. REJOINED UNIT

WX5721 Pte Blowfield G.C. D Coy From 1 Aust Ski School. 18 Feb 42  
WX4487 " Watson S.A. C " do.  
WX5298 " Holland R. A " do.  
WX4952 " Lee W.E. D " do.  
WX7151 " Hawkes J.B. B " do.  
WX6083 " Randall C.D. D Coy do.  
WX6018 " Mills F.M. C " do.  
WX6194 " Roach H. A " do.  
WX5378 " Gardiner R.J. HQ " do.  
WX4975 " MacFarlane C. HQ " do.

5. SCHOOLS AND COURSES

WX7302 Lieut Stewart R.S. D Coy AIF ME Regtl Offrs Sch. No 2 General & Inf Subject Course. 5/31 Jan 42. Qualified.

6. TRANSFER OUT

WX6649 Pte McGillivray F.D. Bn HQ. To D Sec. F.S.S. 19 Feb 42.

DISTRIBUTION

C.C., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt,  
2 Ech, Notice bd, File,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each).

*Leyman Lamb* Capt.  
Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

# War Diary

R

2/28 AUST INF BN

WITHDRAWAL EXERCISE - 19 Feb 42.

## OPENING SITUATION

Large scale operations by Axis drove SOUTH through TURKEY and on 15 Feb 42 forward elements had reached the TURKISH Frontier where our forward troops had engaged them.

A surprise landing estimated at one Bde landed in the vicinity of DAHA SAFRA approx 60 miles NORTH of TRIPOLI on 16 Feb 42 and at dawn on the morning of 19 Feb 42 an attack was made from the NORTH and the NORTH WEST on Trig 571 Defences. The attack was made by enemy strength estimated at 2 Coys, some mortars and M.M.Gs. and had artillery support. This attack was repulsed and at 0930 hrs a further attack in larger numbers was made which also threatened .440 Feature from the NORTH to NORTH WEST.

At 1000 hrs the attack broke through Trig 571 defences, at which time .440 defences were very seriously threatened.

20 Mar 42.

2/28 AUST INF BN  
OPERATION ORDER - 1  
CATAPULT

16

Ref Map - HALBA 1/50,000

INFORMATION

1. Enemy - Known dispositions as per trace attached.  
Probable strength, two Mot Bns with a large number of regtl supporting weapons, at least 14 Tks Mk III and one bty motorised arty.
2. Own Tps -  
24 Aust Inf Bde Gp is to attack and destroy enemy in the AMRIEH and TELL JAMOUS areas.
3. Attached Tps  
The following are under the comd 2/28 Bn. One tp 3 A/Tk Regt,  
ONE Pl 2/2 ~~Mach Gun~~ Bn, ONE Pl 103 Gen Tpt Coy,  
The following are in support 2/28 Bn:-  
Two Btys 2/28 Fd Regt  
One Sec 2/2 Fd Coy

Intention

4. 2/28 Bn will attack and destroy enemy in the AMRIEH area night 20/21 Mar 42.

Method-

5. Fwd Coys  
"B" Coy right  
"C" Coy left  
"D" " to follow in rear of "B" Coy

6. Objectives

- "B" Coy Pt 169 area 19123016.  
"C" " MG Posn at 19053008  
"D" " to exploit through "E" Coy along track to rd at 19053022

7. Line of Advance

See trace attached.

8. Timings

See trace attached.

9. Timing Line

Creek running NORTH - SOUTH from 18863001 to 18952997.

10. FUP

"B" Coy Creek running S/W from 19133008 to 19103007  
"C" " " " S/W " 19103007 to 19083005

11. Guides ar FUP

IO to arrange for two "I" Sec personnel to move with "A" Coy protective patrol to FUP. These to guide Coys onto FUPs and to move with "D" Coy to objectives. On arrival at objective one to remain with "B" Coy and one to continue with "D" Coy.

12. Reserve

"A" Coy to remain at present posn and be prepared to move to AMRIEH area on the success of attacking Coys.

- 13. Mortars  
Two Dets to be prepared to move forward to vicinity .171 at 19083012 at first light to assist in consolidation. Two dets remain in res present locality.
- 14. Carriers - remain in res at 18733002 and be prepared to move at 5 minutes warning ~~at~~ <sup>after</sup> 0630 hrs.
- 15. Arty  
Two Btys 2/8 Fd Regt will support the attack with observed fire.
- 16. A/Tk  
One tp % A/Tk Regt will be in res at 18863006 and be prepared to give left flank protection.
- 17. MMGs  
One Pl 2/2 MG Bn to be prepared to move fwd at 5 minutes warning after 0630 hrs to assist in consolidation.
- 18. Patrols - As per instructions separately issued.
- 19. Zero Hour - 0630 hrs.

ADMINISTRATION

- 20. RAP  
Present posn until capture of objectives then to establish at 18843006.
- 21. SAA- Remain present posn until capture of objectives and then to move to 18853007.
- 22. PW - To present Bn HQ posn.
- 23. Meals.  
QM to arrange for a hot meal to be available in Coy areas. "D" Coy at 0330 hrs. Other Coys at 0415 hrs.
- 24. "B" Ech - Reverts to 2/28 Bn at 0830 hrs. New location to be advised later.
- 25. Sup and POL  
Sup P and PP at KLEIATE 17762932 from 1000 hrs.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

- 26. Bn HQ - Remains present posn. Battle HQ will move 200 x in rear of "C" Coy. On success will establish at "C" Coy's new area.
- 27. Code Word for Operation - CATAPULT.
- 28. Success Signals  
*Signal back to Battle H.Q.  
word "wool"*
- 29. Synchronisation Through Sigs at 0400 hrs.

*[Signature]* Capt.  
Adjnt 2/28 AustInf Bn

METHOD OF ISSUE - DR and Runner

TIME OF SIGNATURE - 0215 hrs.

ACK

T  
DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

(See Over)

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

HQ Coy	1
"A" Coy	2
"B" "	3
"C" "	4
"D" "	5
OC 3 Pl	6
OC 4 Pl	7
RMO	8
QM	9
TO	10
IO	11
Sigs	12
Bn 2 i/c	13
- Bty 2/8 Fd Regt	14
- Pl 2/2 MG Bn	15
- Tp 3 A/Tk Regt	16
2/7 Fd Coy	17
103 Gen Tpt Coy	18
24 Bde	19 - 20
War Diary	21 - 22
File	23
Spare	24 - 25

ADMINISTRATION

20 RAF Present post until capture of objectives then to establish at 1884300.

21 SAA - Remains present post until capture of objectives and then to move to 1885300.

22 PW - To present in HQ post.

23 Meals. On to arrange for a hot meal to be available in Coy areas. "D" Coy at 0230 hrs. Other Coy at 0115 hrs.

24 "B" Bty - Reverts to 2/8 Bn at 0830 hrs. New location to be advised later.

25 Sup and POL Sup P and F at KIBIATE 1478233 from 1000 hrs.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

26 In HQ - Remains present post. Battle HQ will move 200 x in rear of "U" Coy. On success will establish at "U" Coy's new area.

27 Code Word for Operation - GATAPUR.

28 Success Signals

*When "when" where "where" is back HQ*

29 Reproduction Through size of 400 hrs.

*Adjt 2/8 Acstin Bn*

REPORT OF ISSUE - DR and RMO  
TIME OF SIGNATURE - 0215 hrs.

Coy No

(See Over)

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit.) For Week Ending *21 Feb 42.*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	<i>1</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>:</i>
	Majors... ..	<i>2</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>:</i>
	Captains ... ..	<i>8</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>1</i>
	Lieutenants ... ..	<i>20</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>:</i>
	2nd Lieutenants ... ..	<i>1</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>:</i>
	Quartermasters ... ..	<i>1</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>:</i>
	District Officers ... ..	<i>1</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>:</i>
	TOTALS ... ..	<i>32</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>WR 5499</i>	<i>Lieut. Baker G.S.</i>	<i>2/28 Bn</i>	<i>7.2.42</i>	<i>Taken on strength. (Reasons to be attached)</i>
<i>WR 5372</i>	<i>Chadwick R.S.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>- do -</i>

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>WX 3404</i>	<i>Capt Coppock H.T.</i>	<i>2/28 Bn</i>	<i>7.2.42</i>	<i>To Perm Super List (AIF List No 68)</i>
<i>WR 3431</i>	<i>Lieut Longson G.A.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>- do -</i>

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-col		Lloyd JG	2/28 Bn	No	No	13.5.41
2		Maj		Coe JF	"	Yes		Admin Comd
3		"		Brennan JS	"	No		Inf Canon School
4		"		Burton MA	"	"		Det G 24 Bde
5		Capt		Thompson JB	"	Yes		OC D Coy
6		"		Simpson B	"	"		OC C Coy
7		"		Horswood VR	"	"		OC A Coy
8		"		Sturhouse TR	"	"		A/O.C. B Coy
9		"		Newbery JC	"	"		2/10 A Coy
10		Lieut		Keall JG	"	"		1.0
11		"	7/capt	Taylor A.L.F.	"	"		2/10 C Coy
12		"	"	Lamb L	"	"		Adjut
13		"	"	Masel P.	"	"		Pl Comdr
14		"	"	Freedman J.F.	"	"		"
15		"	"	Waring E	"	No		Malaria School
16		"	7/capt	Yates G.H.	"	Yes		Q.M.
17		"	"	Vellis C.C.	"	"		Pl Comdr
18		"	"	Head J.M.	"	"		"
19		"	"	Kell R.P.	"	"		"
20		"	"	Morris J.G.C.	"	"		"
21		"	"	Gamble J.W.	"	"		"
22		"	"	Walker S.A.J.	"	No		Inf School
23		"	"	Lickey M.	"	Yes		Pl Comdr
24		"	"	Stewart R.	"	No		Regt Off Course
25		"	"	Perry G.L.W.	"	Yes		Pl Comdr
26		"	"	Piper D.W.	"	"		"
27		"	"	Harrod E.C.	"	"		"
28		"	"	Eastman E.A.	"	"		"
29		"	"	Bird N.H.T.	"	"		"
30		"	"	Graham G.R.	"	"		"
31		"	"	Baker G.S.	"	"		"
32		"	"	Shadwick R.F.	"	"		"
33								
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Army No	Rank	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
QX19059	Capt		Priddis J.W.	2/3 2d Amb	11.7.41	R.M.O.
WX3409	Chaplain		Macdonald F.T.	1 A.A.Ch. 3	26.7.40	Chaplain
WX 6022	Lieut		Moore J.D.	2 A.I.T.B	18.11.41	Cydst. Leave
WX 10333	"		Draper J.W.	"	"	School.
WX 2922	"		Aborn N.K.	"	17.11.41	School.
WX 6201	"		Patterson C.W.B.	"	17.12.41	"
WX 11087	"		Thomas E.	"	20.12.41	"

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
(Unit.)  
21 Feb 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
Admin Coy (Signature of Commander.)  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

2/28 Aust. Inf Bn (Unit). 21. 2. 19 42 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1	:	:
W.Os. Class II.	5	:	:
W.Os. Class III.	-	:	:
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	4	.	1
Staff Serjeants	.	:	:
Serjeants	31	:	:
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	.	:	:
Corporals & 4sgts	70	:	:
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	670	:	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>781</b>	* 1	* 32

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
Sgt	1 AAFC	Cpl	1 AAOC (Various)
7	1 AAAC	.	1 AA Postal C. (Bin)
cpl	1 (Chiroprapist)	Plt	1 AA Ch. D (batman)
Plt	1 (Orderly)		
cpl	1 AAOC (Fitter MV)		
Mes	2		
.	1 (Shoemaker)		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).



2/28 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.						REMARKS.				
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ...																				
„ „ (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ... ..																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ...																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties...																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ...								1	1	1	1							20	32	Draft of 26 due to arrive 22 Feb 4
TOTALS (to agree with Col- umns 3 and 4 of Part A).								1	1	1	1							20	32	

2/28 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

Signature of Commander, *[Signature]* Maj

Date of Despatch 21 Feb 42

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

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 306

BY MAJ. J.P. COX

ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. SECURITY NOTE

There has recently been a recrudescence of careless and unconsciously defeatist talk of Offrs and others in the LEVANT. As always, this has been eagerly seized on by the local population and duly magnified and stimulated by Axis propoganda, has resulted in a further crop of exaggerated, unfounded and malicious rumours.

It is again pointed out that a careless statement made in public will, in all probability, have an effect out of all proportion to the importance or intentions of the speaker, and that it is the duty of every member of the Allied forces not only to control his own tongue, but to check, and if unheeded, to report loose talk by others.

PART 1B

1. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX4487 Pte Watson S.A. C Coy 21 Feb 42.  
WX5388 " French W.G. D " 23 Feb 42.

2. PROMOTION

WX6887 Sgt Keogh J.D. C Coy To be Lieut 15 Feb 42.  
( AIF List No. 68).

3. PUNISHMENTS

WX4996 Pte Lister F. C Coy AWL 5 days C.B. Auto forfeiture  
1 days pay. 19 Feb 42.  
WX6992 " McEvoy R.C. B " Charge Absenting himself without  
leave from 0630 hrs 5 Jan 42 until 2400 hrs 18 Jan 42. AA 15 (1).  
Tried by District Court Martial 15 Feb 42. Finding Guilty Sentence To  
undergo detention for one hundred and eighty days. Confirmed On 20 Feb 42  
by Maj.General Sir L.J. MORSHEAD, Comd 9 Aust Div.

4. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST

WX7524 Cpl McLennan A.K. C Coy 22 Feb 42.  
WX6339 Pte Daly J.C. A " "  
WX6959 L/Cpl Cody B. C " "  
WX10529 Pte Dorotich J. C " "  
WX5982 " Enright D.N. C " "  
WX3135 " Giblett T.W. A " "  
WX7120 " Lang S.J. HQ " "  
WX10131 " Lavery S.J. B " "  
WX5379 " Mears M. B " "  
WX7970 " Nicholls W.G. A " "  
WX6960 " Oliver C.S. D " "  
WX9636 " Pettit K.W. C " "  
WX9640 " Pettit L.P. C " "  
WX6621 " Rymer J.P.L. HQ " "  
WX5249 " Pescud N.R. B " "  
WX6180 L/Cpl Bowen F.J. D " "  
WX9093 Pte Smith E.A. B " "  
WX13239 " Vigar R.L. A " "  
WX5502 " West W.S. D " "  
WX11933 " Cochran S.R. A " 23 Feb 42.

P.T.D.

**5. TRANSFERS IN**

WX8499	Lieut Baker G.E.S.	HQ Coy	Taken on strength (Ceases to be attached) 7 Feb 42.
WX5272	" Chadwick R.F.	D "	do.
WX4954	Sgt White A.	B "	From Reinf. 22 Feb 42.

**6. TRANSFERS OUT - Ref R.O. 304.**

WX3404	Capt Coppock H.T.	D Coy	To permanent supernumerary List. 7 Feb 42. (AIF List No. 68)
WX3431	Lieut Lovegrove E.A.	D "	do.
WX5477	WO ii Wedgwood C.V.	D "	Struck off strength. 14 Feb 42.
WX5306	Cpl Chinn J.D.	A "	do.

**DISTRIBUTION**

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 Offrs Mess, Sgts Mess, Band Sgt,  
 2 Ech, Notice bd, File,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C, & D, (2 each)  
 4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each)

*Kennan* Capt.  
 Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION

by

MAJOR J.P. COX ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

for

DEFENCE OF THAT PORTION OF TRIPOLI FORTRESS OCCUPIED BY THE  
BN ON RIGHT FLANK OF 24 AUST INF BDE

HARET JEDIDE - 24 FEB 42

Ref Maps:- HALBA, SIR ED DANIE, TRIPOLI 1/50,000. TRIPOLI Special  
Sheet 2. 1/25,000

OBJECT

1. (a) To hold until otherwise ordered by the 24 Aust Inf Bde, the  
outpost positions of the FORTRESS.  
(b) To defend that portion of TRIPOLI FORTRESS on the right flank  
of "B" Sector.

2. LOCATION OF DEFENCES

(a) Outpost Positions. This is situated on the NORTH of River  
NAHR el BARID in the centre of 24 Aust Inf Bde sector and  
consists of two areas:-

(b) DEFENCES ON FDLs *occupied by 2/28 Aust. Inf Bn lies* The sector ~~under consideration~~ rests on  
the right flank of 24 Aust Inf Bde sector of TRIPOLI FORTRESS  
DEFENSES.  
FDLs are defined by the river NAHR el BARID, the defenses facing  
NORTH.  
Right Flank rests on a line running SW from 17802764 to  
176 027 46 .  
Left Flank rests on a line running SW from approx 17522777  
to 1738276 2

than 571 commands excellent observation to the NORTH, NW, and WEST,  
This also overlooks the Bn defensive area SOUTH of the River  
NAHR el BARID and offers excellent positions from which to engage  
the whole of the 24 Aust Inf Bde Front.

DEDUCTIONS It is vital that these areas be held as long as possible  
to deny the enemy observation over the Bde Front and the opport-  
unity of having an excellent position from which to give support-  
inf fire for an attack, if launched against the FORTRESS Defences  
on the Bde Front.

OUTPOST AREA

4. TOPOGRAPHY. The East or right flank of the outpost area is bounded  
by rugged precipitous mountains rising to approx 700 metres which  
make approach by tanks well nigh impossible whilst movement by  
troops would be restricted to the valleys and even then extremely  
difficult.  
To the NORTH and NE, extending to the Rd TRIPOLI HALBA lies rugged  
mountainous country unsuitable for tanks but the numerous waddies  
and re-entrants offer excellent assembly areas and approaches for  
infantry, although movement other than in the EL JDAIDE Valley  
would be fatiguing.

APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION

by

MAJOR J.P. COX ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

for

DEFENCE OF THAT PORTION OF TRIPOLI FORTRESS OCCUPIED BY THE  
BN ON RIGHT FLANK OF 24 AUST INF BDE

HARET JEDIDE - 24 FEB 42

Ref Maps:- HALBA, SIR ED DANIE, TRIPOLI 1/50,000. TRIPOLI Special  
Sheet 2. 1/25,000

OBJECT

1. (a) To hold until otherwise ordered by the 24 Aust Inf Bde, the  
outpost positions of the FORTRESS.  
(b) To defend that portion of TRIPOLI FORTRESS on the right flank  
of "B" Sector.

2. LOCATION OF DEFENCES

- (a) Outpost Positions. This is situated on the NORTH of River  
NAHR el BARID in the centre of 24 Aust Inf Bde sector and  
consists of two areas:-
  - (a) TRIGG 571 (1772796) occupied by a platoon.
  - (b) Features 440 (17632799), 507 (17672787) occupied by  
a rifle Coy, Mortars and MGs.
- (b) See half sheet attached.

CONSIDERATIONS

3. OUTPOST POSITION This is situated on two very prominent features  
NORTH of the River NAHR el BARID. It is divided into two areas,  
the forward platoon area Point 571, which overlooks practically  
all the country to the NORTH, NW, and WEST to the sea with  
excellent observation to the NORTH, whilst to the SOUTH it  
entirely overlooks the Bn defensive positions on the FDLs.  
Approx 1000x SOUTH of 571 is a large bald feature comprising  
points 440 (17632799) and 507 (17672789) which although lower  
than 571 commands excellent observation to the NORTH, NW, and WEST,  
This also overlooks the Bn defensive area SOUTH of the River  
NAHR el BARID and offers excellent positions from which to engage  
the whole of the 24 Aust Inf Bde Front.

DEDUCTIONS It is vital that these areas be held as long as possible  
to deny the enemy observation over the Bde Front and the opport-  
unity of having an excellent position from which to give support-  
inf fire for an attack, if launched against the FORTRESS Defences  
on the Bde Front.

4. OUTPOST AREA

4. TOPOGRAPHY. The East or right flank of the outpost area is bounded  
by rugged precipitous mountains rising to approx 700 metres which  
make approach by tanks well nigh impossible whilst movement by  
troops would be restricted to the valleys and even then extremely  
difficult.  
To the NORTH and NE, extending to the Rd TRIPOLI HALBA lies rugged  
mountainous country unsuitable for tanks but the numerous waddies  
and re-entrants offer excellent assembly areas and approaches for  
infantry, although movement other than in the EL JDAIDE Valley  
would be fatiguing.

NORTH of the Rd TRIPOLI - HALBA is open undulating country suitable for both tanks and infantry in dry weather but considerable rain would restrict movement by AFVs and MT to roads. Running NW, from the left flank of the main outpost positions is a long spur which continues from the outpost feature (440) and gradually loses height until it reaches the coast. This spur has fairly good going and would be suitable for both tanks and infantry. It has very little cover however and is overlooked throughout practically its whole length from the outpost position.

Bounding the left flank and then the Southern extremity of feature 440-507 is a deep precipitous valley in which the River NAHR el BARID flows from the mountains in the EAST to the coast. This river is some 10 to 20 feet wide and in winter runs with a very strong current. The NAHR el BARID is a natural tank obstacle but does offer avenues for infiltration by troops.

5. LINES OF APPROACH The EL JDAIDE Valley which runs, from the NW of the outpost positions, in a NORTHERLY direction, has many reentrants leading to the high ground immediately NORTH of 571 and 440 features. Practically all these re-entrants have tracks leading through them creating good lines of approach for infantry. Re-entrants running into the outpost area from <sup>NW</sup> behind of 571 are under observation in some cases throughout their entire length from Sec Posts or OPs whilst those to the NORTH are entirely obscured from view.

#### DEDUCTION

- (a) Tanks may be used for a local attack on the outpost position from NW directed on 440 feature.
- (b) Infantry attacks may be possible from the EAST but are most probable from the NORTH or NW.

#### DEFENCE AREA SOUTH OF FDL.

6. TOPOGRAPHY This is prepared along the SOUTHERN side of NAHR el BARID valley where on the right front rocky cliffs drop some 440 to 500 feet to the river bed below. On the left front a similar drop exists but less precipitous. The right flank is bounded by selected positions vicinity 704 (17752 774) which are to be occupied by the B de Reserve Bn in event of threat from EAST. 2/43 Bn are on the Bn's left flank in vicinity 428 (17442774) and 2/28 Bn rear boundary lie along general line of SIR ED DANIE - BEIT LARG Road. Throughout the area defined by the limits mentioned above runs the AZGA valley extending from the upper slopes of the SOUTHERN side of the NAHR el BARID valley SW to AYOUN. Rising from the right of AXGA valley are three steep features running parallel to FDLs. These extend to the right flank of Bn Sector. The left of the AXGA valley is bounded by a bald topped spur which extends from 2/43 Bn area (Bn left flank) until it disappears into NAHR el BARID. Here it has been named GIBRALTER by reason of the precipitous rocky formation which overlooks NAHR el BARID valley opposite the outpost position.
7. LINES OF APPROACH As stated under para 4 rugged mountainous country exists on the EAST flank offering few approaches to infantry and impassable to tanks. Running from East and joining the NAHR el BARID approx in the centre of the Bn front is the River NAHR el MOUSSA. This river is suitable for the movement of infantry along its bed but precipitous sides restrict movement. From the NORTH approaches extend from the outpost position to the river below; but these, being tracks down the mountain side are suitable only for infantry. On the left flank the ground slopes to the sea with a few features offering cover for approach and suitable for both tanks or infantry. Here however any such advance would have to come through 2/43 Bn area. Up the SOUTHERN slopes of NAHR el BARID valley, a track passable

only by infantry, horses or mules runs to the AZGA valley. This track leads from two bridges crossing the NAHR el BARID and NAHR el MOUSSA so that infantry approaching from outpost position can move to the Bn area, and then move in cover of AZGA valley to rear of Bn. This must be done under fire from defences.

DEDUCTION :-

(a) Tanks may be used for an attack on the Bn left flank but then only after breaking through 2/43 Bn area. Should such be the case an attack by tanks would be limited to as far as AZGA valley.

(b) An attack by infantry from the EAST is unlikely though not impossible.

Infantry could approach from the NORTH after infiltrating along the rivers NAHR el BARID or NAHR el MOUSSA but an attack on defensive area is unlikely to be made from the NORTH other than from two or three narrow lines of approach covered by fire.

To attack from the WEST would be over open ground swept by fire and then after passing through 2/43 Bn area.

COURSES OPEN

8. The courses open to the Bn have been decided by the allotment of the Bn defensive area and outpost position.
9. The courses open to the enemy may be as follows:-  
Note (On assumption 2/43 area held by them)

(a) OUTPOST POSITIONS

(1) To attack with infantry from the EAST.

This would necessitate a long approach over heavy country prior to launching the attack and then approaching over open ground swept by fire.

571 if not taken would be able to sweep the attackers with enfilade fire.

Not considered likely.

(2) To attack 571 from NE with infantry and 440 - from NW with infantry and tanks. This seems likely as if 571 falls supporting fire could be brought to assist the attack on 440. Disadvantage is that if 571 holds out attack on 440 would be enfiladed by fire from 571.

(3) Attack 571 from NE and NW and on capture of 571 follow immediately with attack by tanks and infantry on 440-507 from NW. - This seems most likely.

(b) MAIN DEFENSIVE POSITION

With Outpost Positions held by us.

(1) Attack from EAST with infantry.

This would necessitate exceptionally long approach march over terribly difficult country demanding tremendous hardships and strain on the troops. It would also demand an attack on a very narrow front and the climbing of cliffs prior to assaulting. Not considered likely.

(2) To infiltrate along rivers NAHR el BARID or NAHR el MOUSSA assembling in re-entrant in valley and then attacking up tracks leading to position. Not considered likely as outpost could engage them from rear and steep tracks would not allow sufficient speed of movement.

(3) Attack from the WEST would have to be staged after defeat of 2/43 Bn.

(4) Infiltrate troops up the rivers and then into re-entrants at night where infantry organised for attack on individual platoon areas at dawn, possibly in conjunction with paratrooper landings. Quite possible but would be difficult to differentiate between re-entrants at night and hard to get the required number of troops in the area to stage the attack.

(5) To land on the coast within the FORTRESS area or break through defences on the WEST, and attack the Bn. area from the SOUTH. This is not unlikely, but in order to reach the Bn. area a major operation would be necessary.

WITH OUTPOST POSITION HELD BY ENEMY

- (1) To attack from EAST - Same difficulties as shown before. Not likely.
- (2) To attack from NORTH up track leading to AZGA valley. Quite likely, as outpost position could be by fire and more opportunity for slower movement up track. Once in AZGA valley could attack up valley to rear of Bn positions. Likely but would necessitate large amount of fire support to silence guns in Pill Boxes and prepared positions along valley. Done in conjunction with paratps or infiltration on night before more likely to succeed.

10. DEDUCTIONS The Bn area with the exception of the outpost position is surrounded with such difficult country it seems hardly likely that an attack is probable on that sector unless as the result of a break through on WESTERN flank, or unless a frontal attack is launched in conjunction with paratps or large infiltrations of troops which have organised behind or within our lines.

PLAN

11. The layout and dispositions of Bn defences are as shown in the attached trace (for use with TRIPOLI SPECIAL sheet 2 1/25000)

12. OUTPOST POSITIONS

- (a) Designed for Locality defence both ~~from~~ <sup>within</sup> outpost area and ~~within~~ platoon areas, with view to most possible attack being from NE, N, or NW.
- (b) Have positions 440-507 organised to support 571 by fire on either flank.
- (c) In the vicinity of ES SOUFANE (17852799) an OP has been sited and is manned to watch and give timely warning of any enemy movement up the re-entrant running NORTH from that village. Movement to the NE, and EAST can also be observed from this OP.
- (d) Plans for possible withdrawal of outpost troops have been prepared and included therein are arrangements for demolition of bridges constructed over rivers NAHR el MOUSSA and NAHR el BARID.

13. DEFENCES ON FDL These are sited <sup>astride</sup> ~~outside~~ the main line of approach the AZGA valley with :-

- (a) One Coy occupying high ground on right front and capable of protecting right flank and one on GIBRALTAR feature in position to resist attack from left and left front or from the SOUTH up re-entrants leading from AZGA valley. Both these Coy areas cover the NORTHERN end of AZGA valley.
- (b) The reserve Coy has prepared positions along the SE slopes of AZGA valley with its reserve platoon astride the road BEIT LARG - AYOON (This to be occupied by outpost platoon in event of withdrawal) This Coy <sup>covers</sup> approaches along the AZGA valley and also possible movement from AYOON along the road.
- (c) Positions to be occupied by the outpost Coy are prepared on 603 (17622759) feature. This will be occupied in the event of withdrawal of outpost Coy. From here approaches from the EAST, or right rear, along the SIR ED DANIE Road would be resisted, and any movement directed EAST up the re-entrant in rear of forward Coys could be dealt with.

15. SITING OF PL AREA AND SEC POST Whilst the protection of main avenues of approach has governed the siting of Pl areas, and subsidiary avenues, the siting of Section Posts, mutual support for all round defence has been arranged throughout the defences. Possible infiltration and thus attack from any direction within Coy areas has necessitated the adoption of this course. Alternative Section positions are being constructed throughout the area. Where Pill Boxes are established provision is made for the protection of the Pill Box by riflemen.

14. PILL BOXES Throughout the defensive positions on the FDLs thirteen concrete Pill Boxes have been constructed. These are for use of Bren Guns and establish strong points within the area. Seven are sited to protect the low ground in the AZGA valley and approaches ~~threats~~ from NORTH or SOUTH, ~~four~~ <sup>four</sup> to cover the upper SE slopes of <sup>thereto</sup>



the valley and two to resist attack from WEST and NORTH on the left flank.

16. WIRING This is planned to be constructed with D.D. Apron fence with concertina between, around Coy and Pl areas and D.A. fence around Section Posts.

Wiring is sited in re-entrants to lead enemy onto spur features covered by fire.

Majority of this wiring has been completed. Work done is as detailed on the attached trace.

17. MMGs Within the Bn area two Pls of MMG are disposed.

(a) One Pl in position on the left flank of Outpost position (see trace) with the task of covering the WESTERN and NW slopes of 571 and the low ground overlooked from left flank of 440 position.

Alternative positions on the right flank of 507 have been prepared for these guns.

It is considered a further section of MMGs is necessary on right flank sited in vicinity 17782793 from where the NE and EASTERN slopes of 571 could be swept by fire. At present a Sec of MMGs located behind FDLs has a task in this area but it is thought inadequate to give fire required.

(b) On the WESTERN heights of Feature 603 a Sec of MMGs is established to cover our left forward Coy area, but at present definite tasks in this area have not yet been finalised.

(c) A Sec of MMG located in AZGA valley covers practically the entire length of the valley and also protects re-entrants running up the slopes of valley sides. (see trace)

(d) Located outside the Bn left flank on the SOUTHERN slopes of NAHR el BARID a Pl of MMGs is able to fire along the bed of the river and thus covers approaches from this quarter.

18. MORTARS 3"

(a) Disposition of mortars within the Bn area are as follows:-

With Outpost Coy	Two
" Right Fwd Coy	Two
" Left " "	One
" Reserve " "	One

Each of these has prepared alternative positions and alternative tasks and positions are prepared in vicinity reserve Coys, to be occupied by outpost detachments in event of withdrawal of outposts.

Tasks selected for mortars are mainly restricted to the numerous re-entrants running into our position and the river flats which offer good avenues for approach.

These tasks are as shown on attached trace and it will be seen they have been selected in conjunction with Arty fire plan as also shown.

(b) In view of the many re-entrants offering good avenues of approach for infiltration by the enemy it is considered the mortars available are totally inadequate for the task of covering the Bn front. It is therefore recommended that 6 more mortars be allocated to the area. Of these two would be established in the outpost Coy, the remaining four being disposed on the defences SOUTH of FDLs.

19. ARTILLERY Artillery tasks are designed to harass the enemy in possible forming up places and assembly areas and to give defensive fire in outpost area or on FDLs along River NAHR el BARID. These tasks are shown on attached trace but at the present they are the subject of further consideration with a view to revision. It is understood that consideration is being given to the re-siting of gun positions to improve their tasks in the Anti Tank role.

20. A/T DEFENCES From the topography as set out in previous remarks in the appreciation, the Bn area, except for the outpost area, is considered to possess natural obstacles making a tank attack on our area rather improbable. For this reason no A/Tk guns are sited in the area.

It is considered however possible for tanks to ultimately approach the area from direction AYOUN or, if not stopped by 2/43 Bn, from the WEST.

It is recommended that a troop of guns be made available to this Bn -

Two for Outpost area

Two to cover approaches from SW and WEST.

21. BN HQ This is at present located at 17502758. Selection of a new site is being performed at present.

22. EVACUATION OF CASUALTIES Sites for two RAPs have been selected in the Defence area.

(a) One, the advanced RAP on the NW slopes of AZGA valley in vicinity 17572768. This is to cater for casualties whilst the outpost position is held and as long thereafter as possible. By establishing it here the line of evacuation of injured is reduced and they thus are given earlier attention. This is partially constructed and is being further improved at present.

(b) Work on a second RAP has been commenced in re-entrant vicinity 17522761. This will be used when it is found inexpedient to use the forward RAP.

(c) Evacuation of casualties is to be performed throughout the area by stretcher bearers which necessitates tremendous carries. To overcome this, efforts are being made to arrange for mules with special equipment to be available for this purpose.

Maj.  
Admin Comd 2/28 Aust. Inf Bn.

War diary

18

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O. No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
26 Feb 42.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 307

BY MAJ. J.P. COX

ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. SECURITY

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: All secret Documents which do not require to be kept for reference and record purposes must be destroyed by burning after being read by all concerned and a certificate of destruction sent immediately to Bn H.Q. Failing this the documents themselves must be returned by Bn H.Q.

Great care must be taken with papers in connection with tactical exercises and all officers must ensure that the above procedure is carried out.

2. PHOTOGRAPHS

Personnel are continuing to photograph prohibited subjects. Officers will again bring to the notice of tps that this cannot be allowed to continue. No one wishes that the privilege of being allowed to use cameras be withdrawn. It is therefore desired that the actions of a few persons who are thoughtless in this regard do not prejudice the privileges of the remainder.

3. SAFEKEEPING OF EQUIPMENT ETC.

Recent inspections show that insufficient care is being taken by personnel in the safekeeping and protection of equipment, clothing etc on issue to them. Every man must realize that such personal issues are his responsibility and in the event of loss occurring through neglect or insufficient attention to safeguard same replacement will be made only on payment for lost articles.

4. CHURCH SERVICE SUNDAY 1 MAR 42.

R.C. 1030 hrs - Mass in village church at 24 Bde HQ.

PART 1B

1. DETACHED FOR DUTY

WX6888 Sgt Allan R.T. "B" Coy Instr Ninth Army LMG & Pistol Course  
23 Feb 42

2. INTER COY TRANSFERS

WX6684	Pte	B ooth	S.	"D" Coy	to HQ Coy	26 Feb 42
WX7107	"	Exley	A.L.	"B"	" " " "	"
WX9985	"	Sheridan	M.S.	"A"	" " " "	"
WX9700	"	Challenger	H.J.	"A"	" " " "	"
WX11748	"	Wilson	A.R.	"A"	" " " "	"
WX4529	"	Johnston	D.H.	"C"	" " " "	"

3. TRANSFERRED TO "X" LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX5909	Pte	Sarginson	I.M.	Bn HQ	25 Feb 42
WX8989	"	Mackenzie	A.B.	"B" Coy (acc injury)	26 Feb 42

4. PUNISHMENTS

WX7552 Pte Threnoworth J.G. H Q Coy Unfit for duty by reason of previous indulgence in alcoholic stimulants  
Fined £2 14 days C.B. 24 Feb 42

PUNISHMENTS (Cont)

WX7260 Pte Barnard

J. "A" Coy AWL 7 days C.B. automatic  
forfeiture 1 days pay 18 Feb 42

WX9535 " Green

F. "B" Coy AWL 3 days C.B. 23 Feb 42

5. TRANSFER IN

WX12688 Pte Neave

A.G. "C" Coy from HQ 9 Aust Div 25 Feb 42

DISTRIBUTION

CO, 2 i/c, RMO, IO, TO,  
QM, 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Amenities Offr, Offs Mess, Sgts Mess, Band Sgt,  
2 Ech, Notice Board, File,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C, & "D", (2 each)  
4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each)

*W. J. Smith* Capt.  
Adj. 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

NOTICE

Australian Comforts Fund

Receipt is acknowledged of the following comforts for distribution :-

840 Cakes Toilet Soap  
420 Sticks Shaving Soap  
840 Pkts of Razor Blades  
420 Tubes Tooth Paste  
1 Football & Bladder

War Diary

70

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 308

BY MAJ. J.P. COX.

ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. DISCIPLINE - BREACHES OF CENSORSHIP

1. Many breaches of censorship and cases of abuse of green envelopes privileges have been detected recently.
2. Full disciplinary action is to be taken in offences of this nature and it is pointed out that heavy fines and periods of detention have already been imposed in this respect.
3. All ranks/<sup>are</sup> to be impressed with the prime importance of strictly observing security regulations in correspondence, and informed that the scope of extra unit censorship has been greatly extended.
4. Although considerable time may elapse between the date of writing and the institution of disciplinary action, according to the stage in transmission at which the breach of censorship is detected, this will in no way lessen the severity of the penalty to be inflicted.

( Extract 9 Aust Div R.O. 127.)

2. KIT OF PATIENTS ADMITTED TO MDs.

Further to A.I.F. (M.E.) Order 378 : For the present in evacuation to Fd Ambs, the procedure as in para. 3 of the abovementioned Order will be followed. Blankets, rifles and web equipment will be left with unit QM. Respirators, steel helmets, clothing and necessaries will accompany the man

( Extract 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 123.)

PART 1B

1. BURIALS:

WX5288 Sgt Lally, D.A. "B" Coy. Buried at Cemetery of Honour, 25 Kilos south of Tobruk. Date unknown.

2. EMBARKATION FOR AUSTRALIA

WX3804	Pte	Middleton,	W.J.H.	Medically	unfit.
WX5461	"	Keeley,	F.C.	"	"
WX6365	"	Potter,	W.S.	"	"
WX6604	"	Smith,	H.S.	"	"
WX7261	"	Reid,	M.McM.	"	"

3. DETACHMENTS

WX3296 Pte Dobner, G.A. Bn H.Q. To 2/4 Fd Hyg Sec 23 Feb 42.

4. PROMOTIONS:

WX5271 A/Sgt Kennedy, D. "C" Coy. Acting rank confirmed. 26 Feb 42.

5. TRADE GROUPING

WX5378 Pte Gardiner R.J. HQ Coy Apptd TG iii Dr. Mech 18 Feb 42.

DISTRIBUTION

CO, 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Amenities offr, Offrs mess, Sgts mess,  
Band Sgt, 2 Ech, Notice bd, File,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D, 4 Pl, 10 Pl (1 each).  
2 each

~~Adjutant Capt.~~  
~~Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.~~

NOTICE

Found - Bayonet No B31960 found on rd opposite office of 8 Mule Coy R.I.A.S.C. Bn HQ to be notified should check disclose that bayonet is on issue to a member of this Bn.



At the 15th day of the  
and the 9th day of the  
his division in  
front of "Blackout  
Jack" in Sinai  
Desert March 4,

R

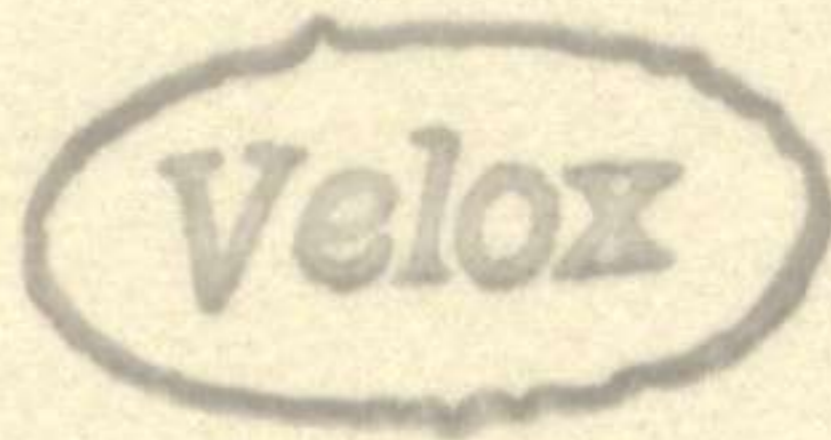




Hunt  
Mason  
Dec 11



—





Capl J Allen  
adit 728 Bm  
at R bus  
Tobruk

Bn 178 April  
1941



POST CAR

CARTE POST.



Bm 120 Aug - Sep

H1 ~~Kula~~ Delia  
on the road

Delia Tobruet



25  
A Desert Home  
To Brink 1941

Geynd  
RIDAX

Geynd  
RIDAX

Geynd  
RIDAX

Geynd  
RIDAX









Mad. Delia

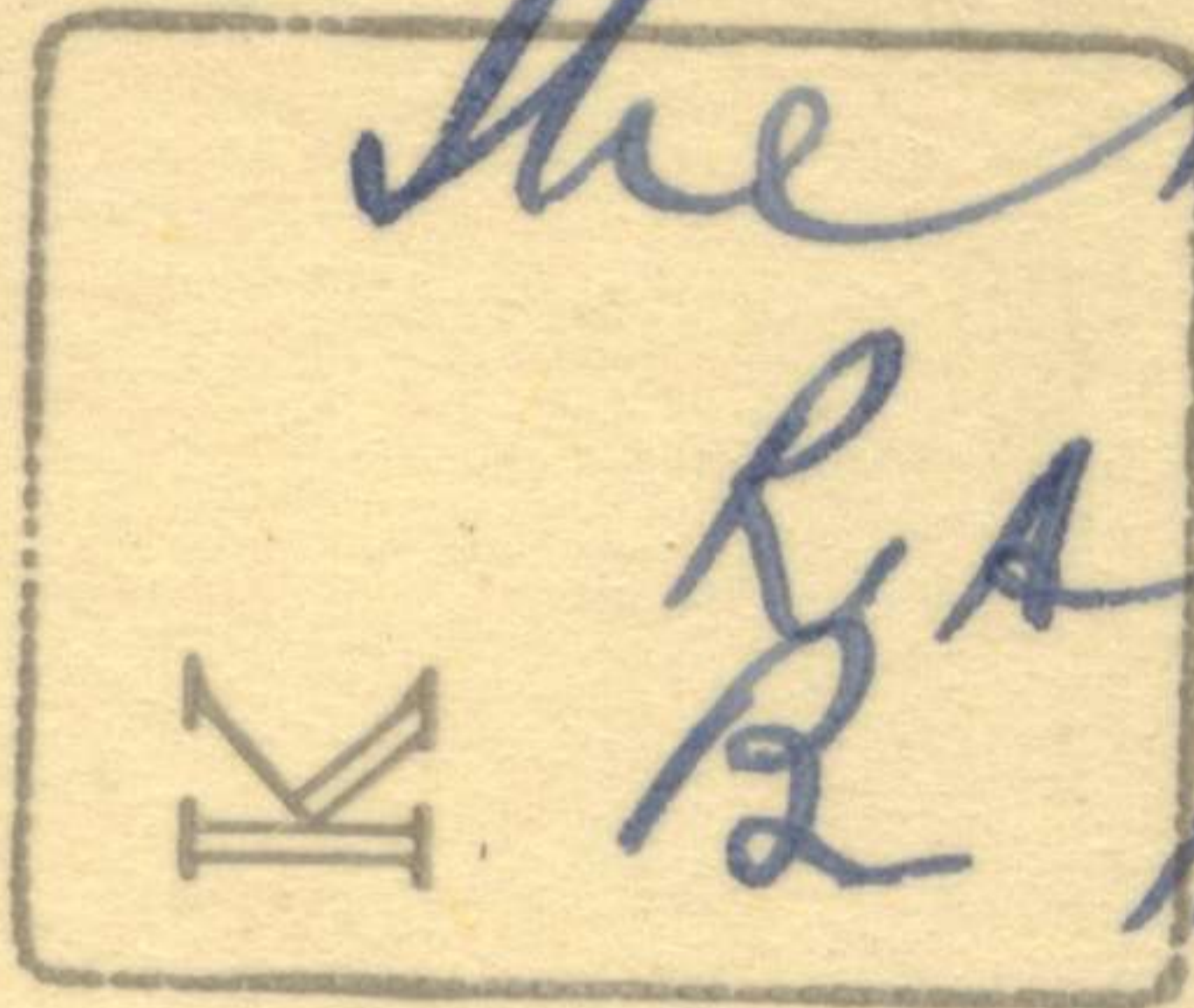
Tobrukh

Aug Sep 21

POST CARTE  
CARTTE POST



The "Fig Tree"



R.A.P. usually

B.K.A. western

Section Tabernacle

July, 1918



The Fig Tree

Entrance to RAB

western sector

Tobruch

July, Aug

POST CAR  
CARTTE POST





The Tiger Country  
the best camp  
wadi Tatan  
Febuch  
Aug Sep 4'



Wesley  
Tobacco

T 701

R

=====  
CARTTE POST

POST CARD



Capt Coppock  
Lieut Stewart  
Capt Hewbery

Velox

4



Capt. ~~hamb~~ *Velox*  
+ Norman

*Velox*

4





Velox

Lucretia D  
Wallace

OX

VELO

J

Velox



Kenneth Waller

Capt Coppock

Capt Buntine

Velox

4



Leunt  
Hockey  
Gambler ✓  
Paper

Velox

Ve

✓  
Velox



Scottie

Velox

Officers Mess

Luca 89

Velox

4





Sgt Mac Gregor

.. Adams

Velox

.. R. O. M. S.  
.. Holding

.. Mitchell

Velox

4



CO  
Nov 21

Velox

Velox

24



Ve

elox

Capt  
Funnell


elox

—



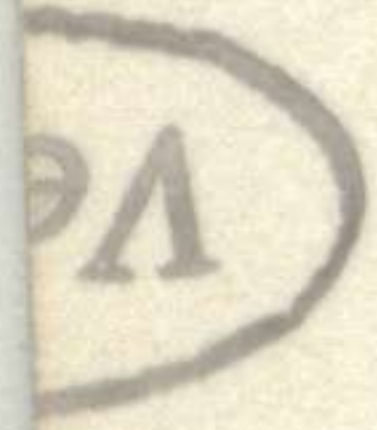
Valley ball in late time

hunts, maseel stall

Ranny  Capt Northwood (3)

Nov 41

—









Capt Toppeck  
aunt Stewart

Velox

4



Wentham  
Capt Bunting  
Wentham



—



Mai Brennan  
Lieut. in Buckley  
& Hall Capt,  
Johnstone  
+ Friedo

Velox



Letters  
of Head  
of C. Ellis

Nov 41

Velox

—





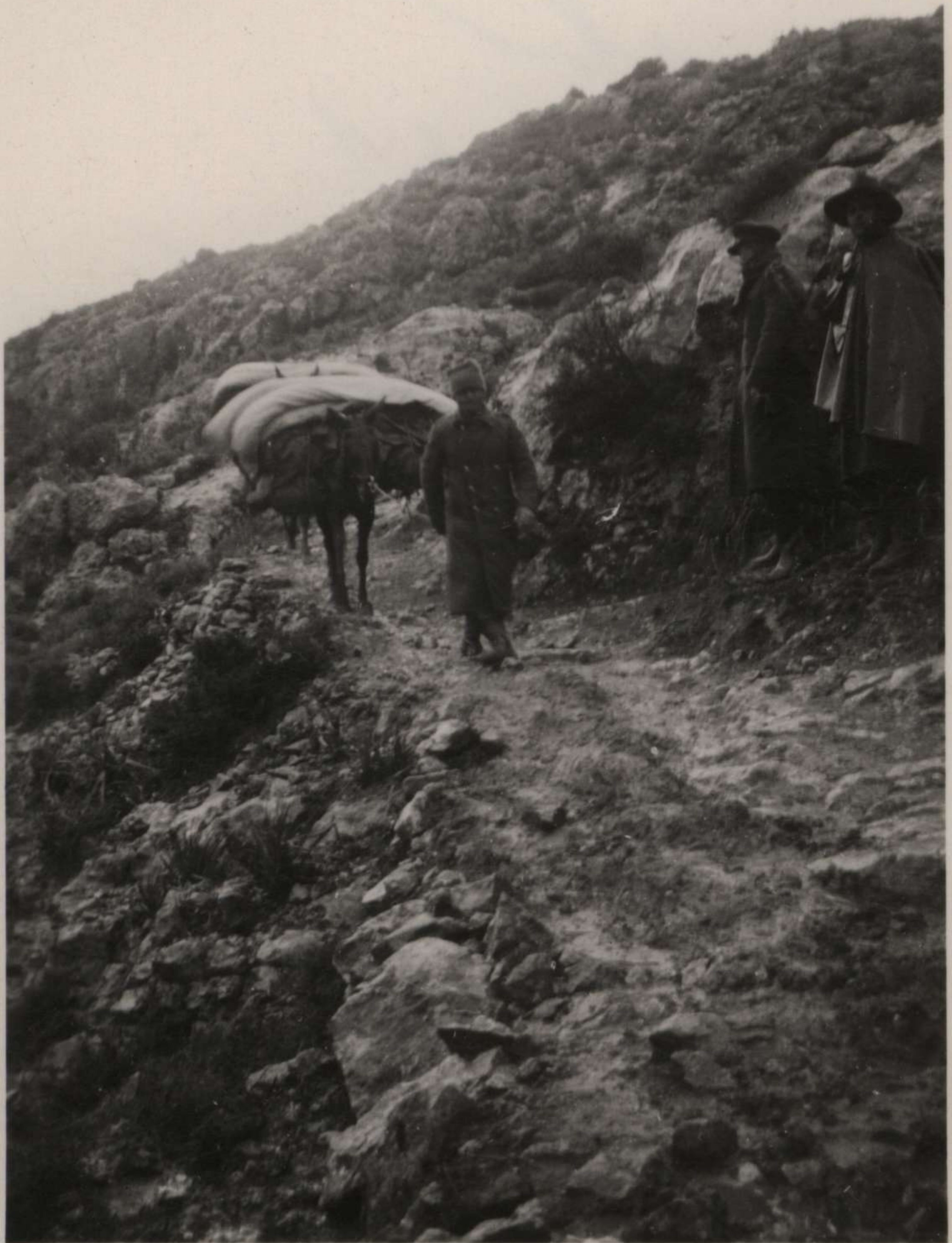
Maj Newman  
Kunt Fedman

OX

Velox

4

Velox



Gevaert  
&  
RIDAX

Cyprus  
Star, grand  
and

Gevaert  
&  
RIDAX

at night

4/11/1918  
in the  
supper  
supper

Gevaert  
&  
RIDAX

Gevaert  
&  
RIDAX

Gevaert  
&  
RIDAX

Gevaert  
&  
RIDAX

Gevaert  
&  
RIDAX

Gevaert  
&  
RIDAX



A day morning  
in loading gear  
on barrels

Jan 42 ~~Labanon~~  
Capt Costello  
for ground



The bon but see  
an a full Ex  
Palestine Dec 41  
H. C. Gulleray  
Sgt <sup>COX</sup> ~~COX~~ G. P. L.  
Watt Page  
Thom Eastman  
• Ellis  
/

VELOX





Velox

10 H Keal  
& unkerpaetis  
unpogabing  
workans  
at 51 Quate  
Hoy area  
hebanon  
Jan 42

Velox

Velox

Velox



Wks R

Capt E. Thompson  
Member of Burchuba

Lady H. Norman  
Went to Keall

taken at Burchuba  
an good will visit

Dec 4  
1900



mai. Bumbane  
Capt Allen  
a was heard by  
at field Exercise  
was NADT.  
Pales page  
Dec 4/1

VELOX



(Dancey  
Drummed  
When band  
played at  
Kurshelbe  
on goodwill  
visit

Drum





Tps at the bases  
at Kurocheta  
When goodwill  
was made

beck 20



1001  
RIDAX  
X

Scene on the runway

1001  
RIDAX  
X

Palastine to the  
hebaan

1001  
RIDAX  
X

Jan 14-15, 44

4 Up the mountain  
foreground

1001  
RIDAX  
X

1001  
RIDAX  
X

1001  
RIDAX  
X



Basket Kallgat  
Kulo eg. Kaleshure  
Officer the nest  
Cap P. C. Pouch  
W. Clark

Dec 41



Mancahu  
in T O Bank

Bill Goggin  
with the copper

52





John Clifford  
Sgt Strabury  
own no town  
15 Jan 1915



Sgt McNeil

Prov. Sgt.

Unit 89 Camp

Dec 41

Velox

McNeil

Vel

lox



Heather  
Penny TORRUK  
Church

Gerrard  
&  
RIDAX

Gerrard  
&  
RIDAX

92

**AUSTRALIA  
PHOTO-STUDIO**

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PRINTING  
ENLARGING.

ARTISTIC WORK  
IN ALL BRANCHES.

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EXPRESS SERVICE.



NAME

*Keall 920*

ORDER No.

*920*

**AUSTRALIA  
PHOTO-STUDIO**

**GAZA**

*2*

SIZE

*1 Roll 117*

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NO. OF PRINTS

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PRICE

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Opus  
Pictorial  
Nov 41

16

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SIZE

OF FILM

OF PRICE

LARGER

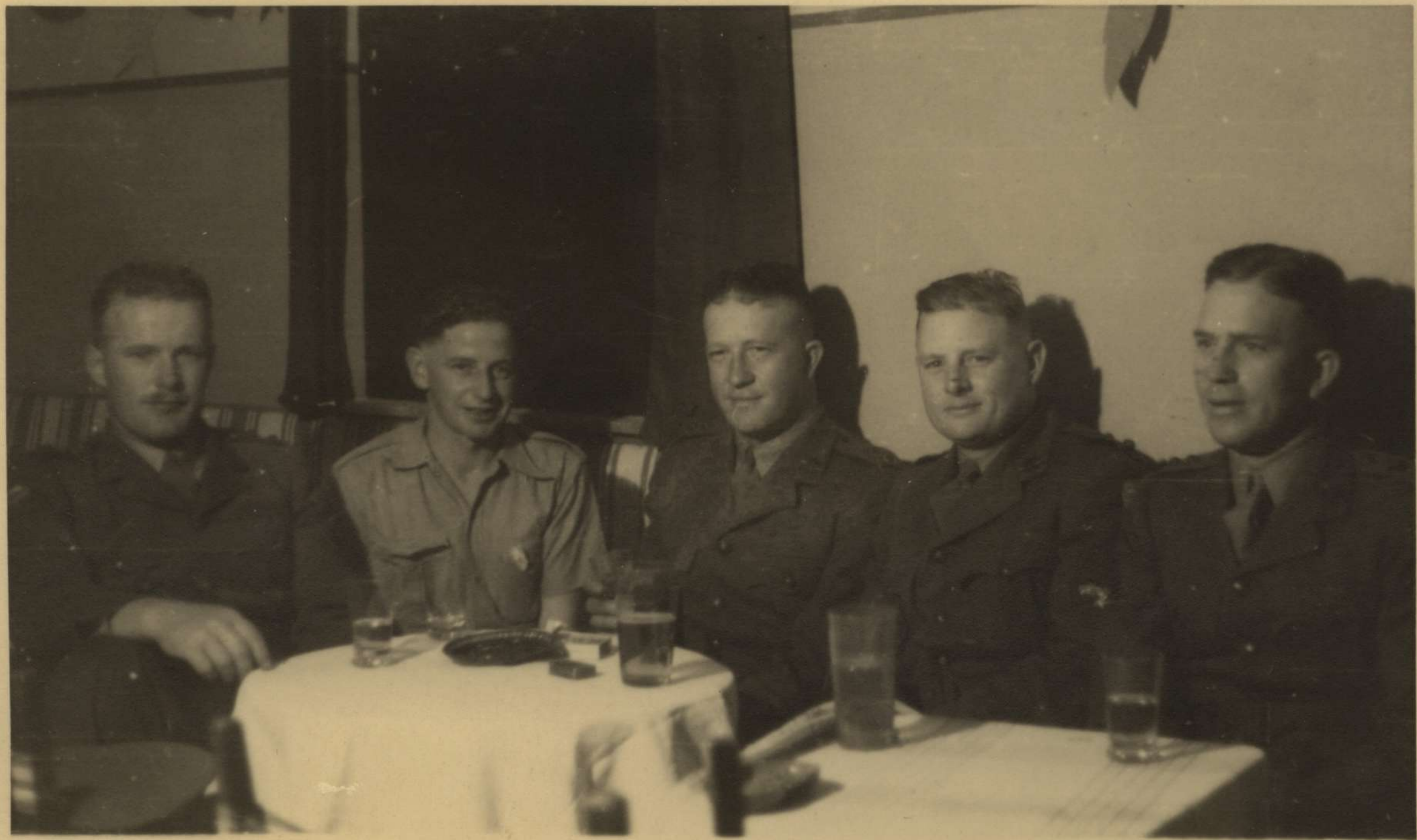
PRICE

PHOTO



Painted

ORIGIN





10  
T  
PBB  
Lunt, J Head

Lunt Mc Gregor

Lunt J Walker

Lunt Robinson

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

228 Aust Inf Bde (Unit). 28 Feb 1942 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1	.	.
W.Os. Class II.	5	.	1
W.Os. Class III.	.	.	.
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	4	.	1
Staff Serjeants	.	.	.
Serjeants	52	1	.
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	.	.	.
Corporals 44/596	71	2	.
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	686	.	14
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>799</b>	* <b>3</b>	* <b>16</b>

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
Sgt	1 AAFC	Cpl	1 AAOC (Amoures)
"	1 AAFC	"	1 RA Postal C (9 Div)
Cpl	1 " (Chiropodist)	Ni	1 AAOC (batman)
Pte	1 " (Orderly)		
Cpl	1 AAOC (Fishes MV)		
Ptes	2 " "		
"	1 " (Shoemaker)		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit,

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.				
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants.		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ... ..																				
"    " (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers ... ..																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ... ..																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ... ..																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers ... ..																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties ... ..																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ... ..						1	2	3		1	1							14	16	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).						1	2	3		1	1							14	16	

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.  
Date of Despatch 28 Feb 42

Signature of Commander. May  
24 Aust Inf Bde.  
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Austral Inf Bn* (Unit.) For Week Ending *28 Feb 42*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	<i>1</i>		
	Majors... ..	<i>3</i>		
	Captains... ..	<i>57</i>		<i>1</i>
	Lieutenants... ..	<i>20</i>	<i>1</i>	
	2nd Lieutenants ...			
	Quartermasters ...			
	District Officers ...			
	TOTALS ... ..	<i>32</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt.-col		Lloyd J.E.	2/28 Au	No	11/13/41	Sen. Offs Course
2		Major		Loe J.P.		Yes		Admin Comd
3				Brennan J.G.	"	"	11/2/41	
4				Burnside M.A.	"	No		Det to 24 Bde
5		Capt		Thompson J.B.	"	Yes	01	D Coy
6				Timson B.	"	"	01	C Coy
7				Northwood V.R.	"	"	01	A Coy
8				Sturhouse T.R.	"	"	1/10/42	B Coy
9				Yewbery J.C.	"	"	2/4	A Coy
10		Lieut		Keall G.	"	"	1.0	
11			T/Capt	Taylor A.G.F.	"	"	2/4	C Coy
12				Lamb L.	"	"		Adjt
13				Masell P.	"	"		PL Comdr
14				Freedman H.G.	"	"		A/O.C. H.A. Coy
15				Waring B.	"	"		PL Comdr
16			T/Capt	Jones G.H.	"	"		AM
17				Ellis C.C.	"	"		PL Comdr
18				Shaw J.M.	"	"		
19				Hall R.J.	"	"		2/4 B Coy
20				Hornis H.G.C.	"	"		PL Comdr
21				Gamble T.H.F.	"	"		
22				Walker S.A.T.	"	"		
23				Lisley W.	"	"		
24				Stewart R.S.	"	"		
25				Parry G.W.	"	"		
26				Paper J.W.	"	"		
27				Harris E.C.	"	"		
28				Eachman E.A.	"	"		
29				Bird N.H.T.	"	"		
30				Green G.R.	"	"		
31				Baker G.S.	"	"		
32				Chadwick R.F.	"	"		
33								
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Qx 19059	Capt	Biddis K.W.	2/3rd Aust	11.7.41	RMO
WX 3409	Capt	Macdonald G.T.	AACH D	26.7.40	Chaplain
WX 3875	Lieut	Graves G.D.	20th A.I. B	12.11.41	} 1/2 over W.E.
WX 10578		Traper G.W.		17.11.41	
WX 4922		Oborne N.H.		17.12.41	School.
WX 6805		Paxson C.W.R.		30.12.41	
WX 11087		Thomas B.			

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
(Unit.)  
28 Feb 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

Admin Coy  
(Signature of Commander.)  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

MARCH MONTH  
1942. YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

# WAR DIARY

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/28 Bn.

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O.'s. REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
<u>HARET</u> <u>JEDIDE</u> <u>SYRIA</u>	<u>MAR</u>			
	3	R/O 309.	1	
	5	" 310.	2	
	7	Field Return (Offrs and O/Rs)	3	
	9	R/O 311.	4	
		Information received that the C.O., Lt-col J.E. LLOYD D.S.O., M.C., had been appointed to comd 16 Aust Inf Bde. The Bn feels the loss of the C.O. keenly but is unanimous in congratulating him on his promotion to Brigadier. Brigadier LLOYD was the first and only C.O. the Bn has had since its formation and by his constant and unflagging efforts he welded the Bn into a Unit of which every man was proud to be a member. He gained the loyalty, respect and admiration of all ranks by his fearlessness, untiring energy and constant thought for those under his command.		
	10	Range Practices 9/10 Mar. Results unsatisfactory, due largely to condition of L.M.Gs. but indicating need for further revision of elementary weapon tng. Preparation of Bn defence works continuing use of local native labour enables Coys to devote additional time to tng.	5	
	12	Bn exercise - Dawn attack on Prepared Defensive Posns. Designed to test Defences of B Coy from an attack from the direction of the coast and to practise Coys in night movement over difficult country.	6	
	13	Bn G (a) gp u/comd Lieut T.P. ROBERTSON used successfully for first time in a Bn exercise. Maj. J. LOUGHREY of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn has been appointed to comd and the Bn extends to him a very sincere welcome as our new C.O.		

A159 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-4/41-G.

*[Signature]*  
Lt-col  
AUST. INF. BN.

MARCH MONTH  
1942. YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

-----2-----  
**WAR DIARY**

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/28 Bn.

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O.'s. REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
<p>HARET <u>JEDIDE</u> <u>SYRIA</u></p>	MAR			
	14	Field Return (Oftrs and O/Rs.)	7	
	16	R/O 312.	8	
	16	Report on dawn attack exercise 12/13 Mar 42.	9	
	19	Training Instruction	10	
		R/O 313.	11	
		<p>The general health of the unit continues to be excellent - 4 cases of mumps have been evacuated during the last few days.</p> <p>With the approach of summer, anti-malaria precautions are being taken. Local villages in the area that have shown a high incidence of malaria systems have been sprayed and mosquito breeding is being controlled. All ranks are being issued with protective mosquito netting. Unit tpt has been recently increased by ten vehicles thus relieving most of our tpt difficulties which up till now have been acute.</p> <p>During the past week Coys have fired 2" and 3" mortar D.F. tasks from their defensive posns. The shoots confirmed the value of the tasks selected and Coy personnel who observed the firing gained further confidence in their defensive positions.</p> <p>The loading point for the mules that supply D Coy (outpost posn) previously established at 17672818 (Tripoli Map Special Sheet 2) is tactically unsound as, in the event of an enemy attack from the NORTH the mule point would be in the path of the advance. Consequently now that the NAHR EL BARID has been bridged at 1764 2775 and 1765 2774 the mule point has been withdrawn to the GAP 1759 2771.</p>		
19	R/O 314.	12		
21	Field Return (Oftrs and O/Rs.)	13		

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-4/41-G.

Signature   
and 2/28 AUST. P. BN.

MARCH MONTH

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

## WAR DIARY

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/28 Bn.

1942. YEAR

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O.'s. REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
HARET JEDIDE SYRIA	MAR. 22	Today has been the coldest we have experienced in Syria - a biting wind all day and snow fell in <del>field</del> <sup>fwd</sup> Coy areas, to the delight of all concerned.		
	25	R/O 315.	14	
		Instructions for Security Guard.	15	
	28	Details of Gd of Honour (original only) provided for Investiture by G.O.C. - in - C. (M.E.F.) General Sir C. AUCHINLECH.	16	
		The first decorations won by members of this Bn were presented to :		
		L/Cpl H.B. NUTT. M.M.		
		L/Cpl D.W. HUTCHINSON. M.M.		
		L/Cpl F.O. BOOTH. M.M.		
		Unfortunately our late C.O. (Brig. J.E. LLOYD D.S.O., M.C.) was unable to be present to receive his D.S.O. and Capt J.L. ALLEN, now seconded to 24 Aust Inf Bde, and the only officer apart from the late C.O. who received an award, was absent at a Staff School.		
		Field Return (Offrs and O/Rs.)	17	
	30	R/O 316.	18	
		Standing Orders for Bn Security.	19	
	31	R/O 317.	20	

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-4/41-G.

Signature   
 Col 2/28 AUST. INF. BN.



War Diary

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
3 MAR 42. (587 Day).

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 309

BY MAJ. J.P. COX

ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. TRIPOLI LEAVE

Any tps on leave in TRIPOLI who may find themselves in the vicinity of a demonstration or any civilian disturbance, will leave the scene immediately.

On no account will any tps concern themselves in any such disturbance.

2. WORKS OFFICER

Lieut Walker having now rejoined the battalion will, while acting as Bn Works Officer, attend to all matters relative to defensive works. Coys will in future direct all requisitions for works material to Works Officer.

Works Officer will be responsible for completion of weekly works progress reports which information will be given to "I" Sec for inclusion on defensive works maps.

3. COURTS OF INQUIRY

In future all Court of Inquiry proceedings will be completed in triplicate before returning same to Bn H.Q.

4. MAIL

It is notified that air mail letters from all States, except New South Wales and Queensland, posted between 1st January, 1942, and 25th January, 1942, have been destroyed by enemy action.

Consequent upon cancellation of the air service from Australia, letter mails to and from the A.I.F. are now being despatched by sea. Sea conveyance will be combined with air conveyance over certain stages of the route in order to get air mails through as quickly as possible.

It is probable that the time for air letters between Australia and Middle East will be at least five weeks. However, the use of air mail is still recommended as surface routes will probably take much longer.

5. ARMS AND WEAPONS

Weekly certificate from Coys certifying that all arms and weapons on issue to Coy and members of Coy, are held and are in good condition or otherwise, will be forwarded to this H.Q. by 1000 hrs Saturday.

PART 1B

1. INTER COY TRANSFERS

WX4445 Pte McMahon R.J. C Coy To HQ Coy 2 Mar 42. (remains detached to B Coy.)  
WX7644 Lieut Head J.M. D Coy To HQ Coy 2 Mar 42.

2. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX4145 Pte Byrne J.P. D Coy 28 Feb 42.

3. REJOINED UNIT

WX3378 Major Buntine M.A. HQ Coy From HQ, 24 Aust Inf Bde 1 Mar 42. Ceases to be detached.  
WX4008 Pte Finkelstein W.G. " do.  
WX6461 Lieut Robertson T.P. C Coy. From 2/3 C.C.S. Beirut 1 Mar 42.  
WX5388 Pte French W.G. D Coy. do. 2 Mar 42.

4. TRADE GROUPING

WX4445 Pte McMahon R.J. HQ Coy Apptd A/TG ii Cook 14 Feb 42.

5. PERMANENT SUPERNUMERARY LIST

Lieut R.G.H. Truscott is placed upon the permanent supernumerary List 15 Nov 41. (AIF List No 69.)

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Ech,  
Notice bd, File,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each).

*R. G. H. Truscott* Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 310

*War Diary*

BY MAJ. J.P. COX

ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. "GEN"

1. The attention of all ranks is drawn to a new publication by G.H.Q., M.E.F. in the form of a pocket digest called "GEN".
2. "GEN" will be published fortnightly, appearing on the 1st and 15th of each month beginning 1st February 1942. As a digest it will contain reading matter of all sorts - serious and otherwise. It is designed to meet all tastes. In a sense it is an amplification of "FACTS WORTH THINKING ABOUT", which it will supersede. It will be well illustrated with photographs, drawings and caricatures.
3. The magazine may be had on payment on application to the Editor, G.H.Q., M.E.F. Units ordering in bulk are allowed 10% discount on the sale price to the public. Cheques should be made out to the Editor, "GEN", and invoices will be sent for monthly settlement.
4. The price is Pt 2 per copy (25 mils in PALESTINE). Individuals may take out subscriptions for quarterly, semi-annual, or annual periods to any part of the world. Rates for despatch through Military Post to members of the Services are: three months, Pt 10; six months, Pt 20; one year Pt 40. Rates for despatch through civil post where postage is incurred may be had on application to the Editor. Once a subscription has been paid, despatch remains the responsibility of the Editor, who does all in his power to see that copies reach their destination.
5. "GEN" has passed censorship, and can be sent to all non-enemy and non-enemy occupied countries.
6. All ranks in the Middle East Forces are asked to co-operate with the Editor in giving this paper the widest possible circulation, so that it may fulfil the purpose for which it is produced.

2. LIQUOR - LEAVE PARTIES

1. No beer or other liquor will be carried, by personnel proceeding on or returning from leave and no purchases of liquor will be made en route.
2. Picquet Offrs and Offrs in Charge of leave parties will be responsible that this instn is carried out.

3. SHOVELS AND HELVES

1. Serviceable shovel heads are urgently required so that they can be refitted with new helves.
2. Special efforts will be made to return shovel heads through Salvage channels for repair at R.E. Base Depots.

4. BROADCASTING OF AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Short wave broadcast of news bulletins, prepared in AUSTRALIA by the Department of Information, are being re-issued through two MIDDLE EAST radio stations daily in A.I.F. sessions.

Particulars of these broadcasts are :-

From P.B.S., JERUSALEM - at 1745 hours, PALESTINE summer time, on wave length of 449.1 metres and frequency of 668 kilocycles per second.

From Radio Levant - at 1900 hours, PALESTINE and SYRIAN summer time, on wave length of 293.5 metres and frequency of 1022 kilocycles per second.

The BEIRUT programme is also audible on the short-wave band on 37.34 metres and frequency of 8036 kilocycles per second.

P.T.O.

**5. DADOS DUMP ORDNANCE.**

Officers and O/Rs are notified that DADOS Dump (Ordnance) is out of bounds to all ranks.

No one has authority to visit Ordnance without written permission.

**PART 1B**

**1. APPOINTMENTS**

WX6797	Pte Shean W.C.	A Coy	Apptd L/Cpl.	3 Mar 42.
WX5298	" Holland R.	"	do.	
WX8405	Cpl Warren R.	HQ Coy	Apptd L/Sgt.	3 Mar 42.

**2. DETACHED FOR DUTY**

WX3400	Lieut Waring E.	D Coy	To 2/4 Aust Fd Hygiene/	Sec (Malarial duties) 4 Mar 42.
--------	-----------------	-------	-------------------------	---------------------------------

**3. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH**

WX4481	A/Cpl Winter I.C.	HQ Coy	2 Mar 42.
WX4969	Pte Brown W.J.	A Coy	"

**4. PROMOTIONS.**

WX6481	A/Cpl Riebeling E.C.	D Coy.	Rank confirmed	3 Mar 42.
WX6780	" Donovan F.C.	"	"	"

**5. REVERSION**

WX4481	A/Cpl Winter I.C.	HQ Coy	Reverts to Pte on evacuation to Hosp.	2 Mar 42.
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**DISTRIBUTION**

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Ech,  
 Notice bd, File,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
 4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each).

**PART 1A (cont).**

**6. CHURCH PARADE SUNDAY 8 MAR 42.**

**ANGLICAN AND PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS**

**0730 hrs.** Holy Communion in YMCA Recreation Hut.

**0900 hrs.** Church parade, YMCA Recreation Hut. Parade to be formed up on main roadway near Hut at 0850 hrs.

**Dress** Service dress - gaiters - belt and sidearms - hats turned up.

**R.C.** 1030 hrs. Mass in village Church at 24 Bde H.Q.

*Kenyon Smith* Capt.  
 Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/28 Aust. Inf Bn (Unit.) For Week Ending 7 March.

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
	Majors... ..	3		
	Captains ... ..	57		2
	Lieutenants ... ..	31		
	2nd Lieutenants ... ..	21	2	
	Quartermasters ... ..			
	District Officers ... ..			
	TOTALS ... ..	33	2	2

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc.).

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
WZ 648	Lieut. Robertson TP	2/28 Bn	13 42	Transf 2/3 CCS Beynon H

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-col		Lloyd J.E.	2/20 Am	No	1/12/42	Temp Offs Course
2		Major		Coste J.P.		Yes	Ad.	Command
3				Burman J.G.				
4				Burkine M.A.		Yes	1/12/42	HQ Coy
5		Capt.		Thompson J.B.		Yes	1/12/42	D Coy
6				Thompson B.			1/12/42	C Coy
7				Northwood T.B.			1/12/42	A Coy
8				Stanhope T.R.			1/12/42	B Coy
9				Newman J.C.			5/12/42	A Coy
10		Lieut		Keall G.				
11			T/Capt.	Taylor A.L.F.				1/12/42 C Coy
12				Lamb L.				Adj. Lt.
13				Mason P.				Pt Comdr
14				Fredman J.S.				
15				Manning E.				
16			T/Capt.	Waters G.H.		Yes	1/12/42	1st Hyg.
17				Ellis C.C.				Pt Comdr
18				Wood J.M.				
19				Hall R.D.				1/12/42 B Coy
20				Morris J.H.C.				Pt Comdr
21				Camble H.F.				
22				Walker C.A.T.				
23				Robertson T.P.				
24				Hickey W.				
25				Stewart R.I.				1/12/42 D Coy
26				Lacey G.L.W.				Pt Comdr
27				Piper J.W.				
28				Waters E.C.				
29				Eastman E.A.				
30				Bird N.H.T.				
31				Green G.R.				
32				Baker G.E.S.				
33				Chadwick R.F.				
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
R. 19058	Capt.	Pinfield K.W.	2nd Am	17.11.41	RMO
W. 3409	Chap.	Macdonald B.T.	PACKD	26.7.40	Chaplain
W. 6323	Lieut	Waters J.W.	2nd Am	12.11.41	School
W. 6501		Robinson C.W.		17.12.41	WB
W. 1059		Thomas E.		30.12.41	

2/20 Aust Inf Bde  
(Unit.)  
7 Mar 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

W.A. Burkine Maj  
Adjutant General  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
(Signature of Commander.)  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

*2/28 And Inf Div* (Unit). *7 Mar* 19 *42* (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.	5-		1
W.Os. Class III.	.		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	4		1
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	32	1 (No. 1)	
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals	70	1	2
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	685		15
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>797</b>	*	* <b>17</b>

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
<i>Sgt</i>	<i>1 AAFC</i>	<i>Cpl</i>	<i>1 AAOC (Armoured)</i>
	<i>1 AAFC</i>		<i>1 AA Postal C (9 Div)</i>
<i>Cpl</i>	<i>1 (Chiro-podist)</i>	<i>Pls</i>	<i>1 AA Ch D</i>
<i>No</i>	<i>1 (Orderly)</i>		
<i>Cpl</i>	<i>1 AAOC (Fitter MV)</i>		
<i>Pls</i>	<i>2</i>		
	<i>1 (Shoemaker)</i>		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

2/28 Aust Inf Bde Unit

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.								REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ... ..																				
"   "   (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ... ..																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ... ..																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers ... ..																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties... ..																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ... ..						1	1	2					1	1					15-17	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).						1	1	2					1	1					15-17	

2/28 Aust Inf Bde Unit  
Date of Despatch 7 Mar 42

W.A. Pentrice  
Signature of Commander  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
MAY 64 A.O.B.

Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.



*War Diary*

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 311

BY MAJ. J.P. COX

ADMIN COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. CLEANLINESS OF KITCHENS

With the approach of warm weather, the importance of scrupulous cleanliness of kitchens is stressed.

It has been noted that in some instances this is not good and that meals are spoiled and tainted by cooking in dirty utensils.

2. "BRITISH BATTLE DRESS" - NOT TO BE WORN

Wearing of the type of uniform known as "British Battle Dress" is an infringement of A.I.F. (M.E.) Orders in which is laid down Order of Dress for the A.I.F.

Wearing of "British Battle Dress" will cease forthwith and any disregard of this Order will be treated as a matter for disciplinary action.

(Ref AIF (ME) Orders No 1021 of 2 Mar 42.)

3. LOSS AND PILFERING OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

Examination by censorship has revealed that parcels despatched by members of the A.I.F. to relatives and friends contain certain articles classified as loot and also Government property.

This practice will cease forthwith and disciplinary action will be taken against both the sender of the parcel and the franking officer, when breaches are detected.

In this regard it is stressed that extra unit censorship has recently been greatly extended.

It is forbidden to despatch to any private address any article of Government property or loot in the form of captured enemy clothing, material of any type including live ammunition and explosives, or documents, books or any other articles of value to the Intelligence Service in determining identification and acquiring information regarding the enemy.

Objects which are only curios or souvenirs and are of no military value may be despatched.

Attention is drawn to A.I.F. (M.E.) Orders Nos. 236, of 7th March, 1941, and 516, of 26th July, 1941.

(Ref AIF (ME) Order No 1022 of 2 Mar 42.)

PART 1 B.

1. TRANSFERRED TO K LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX5388 Pte French W.G. D. Coy 7 Mar 42.  
WX6194 " Roach H. A " "

2. PROMOTION

WX3403 Lieut (T/Capt) Taylor A.L.F. C Coy To be Capt (Vide AIF List No 70) 18 Feb 42.

3. PUNISHMENTS

WX1963 Pte Grafton E.N. A Coy AWL Fined £2, Auto Forf 2 days pay. 5 Mar 42.  
WX4679 " Hunter J. " AWL Fined £1/10%, 14 days C.B. 5 Mar 42.  
WX10665 " Bunn M.G. " Failed to obey an order of his Coy Comd Fined £1. 5 Mar 42.  
WX10651 " Brown W.M. " do.  
WX4973 " Laming F.C. C Coy AWL. 5 days C.B. Auto Forf 1 days pay 6 Mar 42.  
WX6702 " Delfs W.G. HQ " AWL. Fined 5/- Forf 1 days pay 1 Feb 42.  
WX6701 " White L.L. " do.  
WX8671 " Burrows J.J. C Coy (1) Disobeyed a lawful command given by his superior officer. (2) Used insubordinate language to his superior officer 18 Jan 42. P.T.O.

**PUNISHMENTS (CONT)**

Tried by District Court Martial 2 Mar 42. **Finding First charge, Not guilty. Second charge, Guilty. Sentence 21 days Detention, Date 2 Mar 42.**

**4. REVERSION**

**WX6366 A/Cpl Rea G.C. C Coy. Reverts to L/Cpl. 7 Mar 42.**

**DISTRIBUTION**

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Ech,  
Notice bd, File,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each).

*James J. ...*  
**Capt. Aust Inf Bn.**  
**Adjt 2/28**

PART I B.

1. TRAFFIC TO LIST AND STUCK OUT STAMPS

NAME	REGIMENT	DATE	REMARKS
WHEELS Pte French	B Coy	7 Mar 42	
WHEELS " Bosch	" A	"	

2. PROMOTION

NAME	REGIMENT	DATE	REMARKS
WHEELS Lieut (V Coy)	Taylor A.L.F.	C Coy	To be Capt (V Coy) (List No 70) 18 Feb 42

3. REVERSALS

NAME	REGIMENT	DATE	REMARKS
WHEELS Pte French	A Coy	7 Mar 42	
WHEELS " Bosch	" B	"	
WHEELS " Bosch	" C	"	
WHEELS " Bosch	" D	"	
WHEELS " Bosch	" E	"	

10 for 47  
S

Hq, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,  
In the Field.  
27 Feb 42.

RANGE PRACTICES

1. The following allocation of Ranges is made for 9/10 Mar 42:-

(a) EL ABDE - 8 TARGETS

9 Mar D Coy.  
10 Mar B Coy.

(b) DIV RANGE - 15952747 - 10 TARGETS

9 Mar A Coy.  
10 Mar C Coy.

2. Coys will be responsible for safety precautions laid down in 9 Div G.S.I. No 19 (Copy attached) and also for the cleanliness of the ranges.

3. PRACTICES TO BE FIRED

As per appx A.

4. PERSONNEL TO FIRE

Low standard personnel and personnel regarding whom Coys have NO previous records. It is anticipated that Coys will be able to practice 70-80 daily.

5. WEAPONS & AMN

(a) L.M.G's. R.S.M. will arrange for all L.M.G's to be withdrawn to Rear H.Q's by 8 Mar 42 and will allocate them as follows :-

9 Mar D Coy 5 To be delivered direct to EL ABDE Range by 0830 hrs 9 Mar 42.  
A Coy 5 To be loaded on vehicle used to tpt A Coy to Range.

NOTE A and C Coys must ensure that L.M.G's are returned to Rear H.Q. on completion of shoot on 9 Mar 42.

10 Mar B Coy 5 C Coy 5.

(Weapons to be loaded on respective Coy tpt before vehicles leave for Coy areas).

(b) AMN

A Coy) 7000 rds SAA will be delivered to Coy areas Monday  
B Coy) 2 Mar 42.  
C Coy) (This willenable min range practices to be fired prior to use of open range.)

D Coy 6000 rds SAA will be delivered with weapons direct to EL ABDE Range by 0830 hrs 9 Mar 42.

6. RECORDS

Complete register will be kept of every man's score and the following will be submitted to Bn H.Q. on the day following the practice:

(a) A report on the shooting showing:

- (1) Practices fired.
- (2) Total possible score.
- (3) Number of personnel fired.
- (4) Scores of 100 and over.  
" " between 85 - 100.  
" " " 75 - 84.  
" " " 60 - 75.  
" " less than 60.

- (b) Certificate of expenditure of Amn.
- (c) Certificate of inspection of arms.

7. RATIONS

Under Coy arrangement.

8. TPT

T/O to arrange tpt as under:

9 Mar	D Coy	1 3 Tonner)	To report D Coy 1800 hrs
		1 30 cwt )	8 Mar 42.
		1 15 cwt	To tpt weapons and amn direct
			to LL ABDE by 0830 hrs 9 Mar 42.
	A Coy	1 3 Tonner)	To report A Coy area 0800 9 Mar.
		2 30 cwts)	
10 Mar	B Coy	2 3 Tonners)	To report B Coy 0800 hrs.
		1 30 cwt )	10 Mar 42.
	C Coy	1 3 Tonner)	To report C Coy area 0800 hrs.
		2 30 cwts )	10 Mar 42.

NOTE Vehicles to make second trips where necessary.

9. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS - MINIATURE RANGE

Coys will ensure that all safety precautions applicable to miniature ranges are complied with when firing in Coy areas and that neighbouring Units are notified.

DISTRIBUTION

A, B, C, D Coys (2 each),  
Q.M., T.O., R.S.M., File, Spare (2).

*Keenan/Smith* Capt.  
 Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

RANGE PRACTICES - APPDX. A.

Practices will be as follows :-

RIFLE

<u>Practice Type</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>No Rounds</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
No 1 Grouping	small	100	5	Rifle rested.
2 Application	"	200	5X	Lying, rifle rested.
3 "	"	200	5X	Lying, bayonet fixed.
4 "	"	300	5X	Lying, no rest.
5 Rapid	"	300	10	Lying, rifle rested. rifle loaded with 5 rds & 5 in posn of readiness. Time exposure - 45 sec. Highest score - 150

30

BREN

<u>Practice Type</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>No rounds</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
No 1. Test accuracy and trigger pressing.	small	200	5	Shots to be sigld in normal way as for rifle.
2. Application	"	200	15	3 bursts nml rate. MPE to be sigld. Bulls and inners - 2 magpies, outers - 1.
3. Ranging	"	300	5	ditto 1.
4. Application	"	300	15	ditto 2. & 1.
5. Fleeting	"	300	10	Respirator adjusted. 200 X set on sights till target appears, when sights will be adjus. ted. Exposure - 20 secs. Bulls, Inners & Magps - 2. Outer - 1. Highest score - 130.

50

- Ø These practices are fired on 30 X range.  
X Denotes 2 sighting shots (Not to count).

11 Mar 42.

War Diary

2/28 AUSTRALIAN INF BNBN EXERCISE - DAWN ATTACK ON PREPARED DEFENSIVEPOSNS - 13 Mar 42.

b.

Ref Map TRIPOLI - LEVANT 1/50000

1. OBJECT

- (a) To practise the Bn in Battle Procedure.
- (b) To exercise the Bn in a dawn attack supported by Arty and MMGs.
- (c) To test the defensive posns occupied by B Coy 2/28 Bn.

2. DATE AND PLACE FOR EXERCISE

12/13 Mar 42 at BEIT LARA (174275) - AZGA (174276).

3. TPS TAKING PART

- 2/28 Aust Inf Bn less details.
- One Bty 2/8 Fd Regt.
- One Pl 2/2 MG Bn.
- One Det. 2/7 Fd Coy.

4. ORGANISATIONAttacking Tps.

Ppn Bn H.Q.  
 A.C. & D. Coys plus Mortar Dets attached.  
 One Bty 2/8 Fd Regt.  
 One Pl 2/2 MG Bn.

Enemy

B Coy 2/28 Bn (including 10 Pl).

5. PLACE OF ASSEMBLY AND TIME TO COMMENCE

10 Pl - To move from Outpost posn to B Coy 12 Mar arriving B Coy by 1600 hrs.

B Coy to occupy defensive posns by 0400 hrs 13 Mar.

A and C Coys - To move by route march to place of assembly (to be advised) to arrive at 0400 hrs 13 Mar.

D Coy - To move by M/T to assembly area to arrive at 0400 hrs 13 Mar.

6. RECCE PARTY

(a) A, B, &amp; C Coys will each arrange for Recce parties as under to RV at assembly area at 1600 hrs 12 Mar for recce for dawn attack:

Coy Comds - Pl Comds.

Umpires as detailed.

(b) Adj, I.O., O.C. 3 Pl, Sig ofr and Comds Support arms will also attend.

7. DIRECTOR - Maj. J.P. COX.8. UMPIRES

To be supplied by Hq Coy 2/28 Bn as advised separately.

Note Directing Staff and Umpires will wear white arm bands and hats FS.

9. REPRESENTATION OF FIREAttacking Tps. Rifles - Bolt action.

LMGs. - Rattles and Tins.

Enemy As above with torches to represent LMGs.Dress Battle Order - Steel Helmets - Respirators - Water Bottles filled - LMGs to be carried.10. TPT

T/O to arrange tpt as under :

- (a) To tpt 10 Pl with blankets from Outpost posn to B Coy area by 1600 hrs 12 Mar.
- (b) To tpt D Coy from Outpost posn to assembly area to arrive by 0400 hrs 13 Mar.
- (c) To tpt blankets of 10 Pl from B Coy area to Outpost posn by 1200 hrs 13 Mar.

P.T.O.

**RATIONS**

Q.M. will arrange for :

- (a) B Coy to supply meals as follows :
  - 10 Pl - evening meal, 12 Mar.
  - Breakfast 13 Mar.
  - D Coy - Breakfast 13 Mar.
- (b) Coffee and biscuits to be available at assembly area at 0400 hrs 13 Mar for A, C, & D Coys.
- (c) Coffee and biscuits for B Coy to be under Coy arrangement.

**12. COMMUNICATIONS**

Sig Offr to provide line comm :

- (a) From B Coy bivouac area to B Coy Battle Hq.
- (b) From B Coy Battle Hq to assembly area.

**13. SECURITY**

- (a) Coys will ensure that sufficient personnel are detailed for Camp security duties during conduct of exercise.
- (b) All bull man will be withdrawn from tps taking part and an arms inspection will be held prior to commencement of exercise.

**DISTRIBUTION**

Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
 C.O., 2 i/c, Adj., I.C., S.M.,  
 R.H.O., T.O., R.S.M., S/O RA Regt.,  
 2/2 MG Bn, 24 Amst Inf Bde.,  
 War Diary (2), P.M., spare (2).

*Approved by* **Capt.**  
**2/2 MG Bn.**

HQ, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn,  
In the Field.  
12 Mar 42.

OPENING SITUATION

Ref Map TRIPOLI - 1/50000

On 9 Mar a German force succeeded in advancing through TURKEY and capturing the frontier position in NORTHERN SYRIA and immediately followed up this success by exploiting SOUTHWARD along the coast towards TRIPOLI.

This column which included tanks and mountain troops on morning of 11 Mar had reached TARTOUS approx 40 miles NORTH of TRIPOLI.

From information as to the strength of defensive positions around TRIPOLI fortress it was planned that a large scale operation would be necessary to capture the fortress with attacks being staged.

- (a) By beach landing immediately SOUTH of TRIPOLI.
- (b) On Outpost positions 440 - 571.
- (c) By mountain troops on SIR ED DANIE area.

During night 11/12 Mar the beach landing was successful and at 1300 hrs 12 Mar an Inf Division had landed and at that time was disposed with one Inf Regt vicinity RAS MASKA (160273), one at MADJLAYA (164275) and the third (28 Inf Regt) had successfully advanced along the road TRIPOLI - BEIT LARA where it was disposed as follows:-

- 15 Inf Bn astride road in the square(172275)
- 16 Inf Bn) Area KLMAILA (168274)
- 17 Inf Bn)

In co-operation with attacks to be made from outside the perimeter on night 12/13 Mar 28 Inf Regt was ordered to push into the rear of the defences.

NARRATIVE 1.

At 1430 hrs 12 Mar C.O. 16 Inf Bn received a message from 28 Inf Regt warning of probable dawn attack by 16 Inf Bn. Bn R gp to RV at 17232756 at 1500 hrs to receive orders.

As result of this C.O., 16 Inf Bn sent message for Bn O gp to RV at same reference by 1600 hrs.

.....



SECRET

12 Mar 42

EXERCISE

16 BN OO NO 1 - COPY NO.....

Ref Map TRIPOLI 1/50000. SIR ED DANIE 1/50000.

INFORMATION

1. Enemy - See opening situation and narratives issued. Information received 0100 hrs that enemy have withdrawn from 571 (17772796) and 440 (17632791). Latest air reports indicate enemy strength estimated one Coy occupy BEIT LARA area (17492759) as pointed out on ground.

2. 105 motorised regt have captured 571 and 404 features and 204 mountain regt are to attack enemy positions located SIR (178271) area at 0300 hrs.

Dispositions of 8 Div remain unchanged.

3. Tps attached to 16 Bn - one Bty Arty - one Pl MMG and det engs, come under command 16 Bn as from 1400 hrs today.

4. INTENTION

16 Bn will capture enemy positions BEIT LARA area by dawn attack 13 Mar.

5. METHOD

Forward coys - D Coy right, C Coy left, A Coy moving 300 yds rear C Coy.

6. OBJECTIVES

D Coy enemy positions ROUND HILL (17452757) and NORTH to enemy positions in BEIT LARA Valley. C Coy enemy positions **FIRST VALLEY** (17432760) then NORTH to BEIT LARA VALLEY.

A Coy enemy positions STEEP SLOPE (17502763).

7. LIMIT OF EXPLOITATION

D and C Coys lower slopes SOUTH side BEIT LARA VALLEY. A Coy NORTHERN slopes STEEP SLOPE.

8. RESERVE

B Coy astride rd at 17282758.

9. ASSEMBLY POSITION

Area 17232756 formation D Coy forward - C Coy centre - A Coy rear. I.O. will arrange marking of areas by lights and for guides to lead coys into position.

10. F.U.P.

Routes and timings see trace appx A. Rate of advance 100 yards in three minutes.

11. MARKING OF F.U.P.

I.O. will select F.U.Ps. and arrange to guide coys to position.

12. PATROLS

15 Bn are maintaining strong fighting patrols in valleys running NE from 17282753 to 17382760 and to 17432757 until 0543 hours.

13. COVERING PARTIES

15 Bn are arranging last patrols operating will act as covering parties at F.U.Ps which will be maintained until coys cross F.U.Ps.

14. DIRECTION OF ATTACK FROM F.U.P.

D Coy 76 deg, C Coy 84 deg, A Coy 77 deg 30 mins.

15. I.O. will arrange times with 15 Bn patrols for guides to recon routes.

16. MORTARS

Two dets will move in rear of A Coy on capture of objective by D and C Coys will support attack by A Coy on STEEP SLOPE by observed fire.

Two dets will occupy position in B Coy area and support attack of D and C Coys by observed fire.

Two dets will remain in reserve on wheels in assembly area.

17. CARRIERS

Will remain in reserve at assembly area ready to move at 5 mins notice at 0600 hrs.

18. MMGs.

Will support attack by observation from vicinity ROCK KNOLL 17282758 on capture of objectives will be prepared to move forward to assist in consolidation.

19. ARTY

Will support attack by observed fire.

20. ENGINEERS

Parties will move with each coy with Bangalore torpedos to blow two gaps in wire on each coy front.

21. ZERO HOUR -0542 HOURS

ADM

22. SAA RES AT ASSEMBLY AREA  
SAA res at assembly area.

23. RAP at assembly area until capture of objectives by D and C Coy when will move to 17392760.

24. Q.M. will arrange for coffee and biscuits to be available at assembly area at 0400 hrs.

25. PW will be escorted to Bn HQ.

26. B.Ech is bded.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

27. Bn HQ at assembly area. Battle HQ ROCK KNOLL 17282758.

28. Success signal visual to Battle HQ - code word - WON -.

29. Synchronisation of watches through sigs at 0230 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No.

HQ Coy	1
A Coy	2
B Coy	3
C Coy	4
D Coy	5
3 Pl.	6
4 Pl.	7
R.M.O.	8
Q.M.	9
T.O.	10
I.O.	11
Sigs.	12
Bn 2 i/c.	13
- Bty	Fd Regt. 14
- Pl	MG Bn. 15
Fd Coy	16

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ hrs  
Issued by \_\_\_\_\_

*Kenneth Lamb*  
Capt.  
Adjt 16 Bn.

Ack

28 Bde	18/19
War Diary	20/21
File	22
Spare	23/24/17

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/28 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	2	1	
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	6		2
Lieutenants ...	25		
2nd Lieutenants ...	21	2	
Quartermasters ...			
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lt.-col	Loughrey J.	2/28 Bn	13.3.42	Transf from 3/24 Aust Inf Bn. Appld. to comd 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt.-col		Lloyd JE	2/28 Bn	No	1613 Senr. Officers Course
Maj (T/capt)		Loughrey J	"	Yes	CO
Maj		Cox JP	"	"	2/c
"		Brennan JG	"	"	OC HQ Coy
"		Buntine MA	"	"	OC B Coy
Capt		Thompson JB	"	"	OC D Coy
"		Simpson B	"	"	OC E
"		Northwood VR	"	"	OC A
"		Stenhouse TR	"	"	2/c B Coy
"		Newbery JC	"	"	2/c A Coy
"		Taylor ALF	"	"	2/c C Coy
Lieut		Keall G	"	"	I.O.
" (T/capt)		Lamb L	"	"	Adjlt.
"		Masel P	"	"	Pl Comdr
"		Freedman HJ	"	"	
"		Waring E	"	No	Det 13 = 1/4 Fd Hq. Sec
" (T/capt)		Yates GH	"	Yes	QM.
"		Ellis CC	"	"	Pl Comdr
"		Head JM	"	"	
"		Hall RJ	"	"	
"		Norris HJC	"	"	(T.O)
"		Gamble HF	"	"	
"		Walker SAJ	"	"	
"		Robertson TP	"	"	
"		Hickey M	"	"	
"		Stewart RS	"	"	A/2/c D Coy
"		Parry GLW	"	"	Pl Comdr
"		Piper D.W	"	"	
"		Harrod EC	"	"	
"		Eastman E.A.	"	"	
"		Bird N.H.T.	"	"	
"		Greem GR	"	"	
"		Baker GES	"	"	
"		Chadwick RF	"	"	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	Qx 19059	PRIDDIS K.W	2/3 Fd Amb	17.7.41	R.M.O.
Chaplain	Wx 3409	Macdonald B.T.	A.A.Ch.D	26.7.40	Chaplain
Lieut	Wx 6525	MONRO A.D	24 A.I.T. Bn	12.11.41	} % over W.S.
"	Wx 10568	DRAPER JW	"	"	
"	Wx 6805	PATERSON CWB	"	17.12.41	} School.
"	Wx 11087	THOMAS E	"	30.12.41	

2/28 Aust. Inf Bn  
(Unit.)  
14 Mar 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature of Commander.)  
24 Aust. Inf Bde  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

228 Aust-Eng Bn (Unit) 14 Mar 1942 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	5	-	-
W.Os. Class II.		-	-
W.Os. Class III.	.	-	-
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	4	-	1
Staff Serjeants	32	1 (at C Coy)	-
Serjeants	.	.	.
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	.	.	.
Corporals	69	.	.
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	682	.	18
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>*</b> 1	<b>*</b> 20

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
Sgt	1 AAFC	Cpl	1 AAOC (Armoured)
"	1 AAFC	"	1 AA Postal C (9 Div)
Cpl	1 - (Chiropract)	Plt	1 AA Ch)
Pte	1 - (Orderly)		
Cpl	1 AAOC (Fitter MV)		
Ptes	2 - (Shoemaker)		
"	1 - (Shoemaker)		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

2/28 Aust Inf Bde  
Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ... ..																				
„ „ (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ... ..																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ... ..																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers ... ..																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties... ..																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ... ..																				18 20
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).																				18 20

2/28 Aust Inf Bde  
Unit.

Date of Despatch

14 Mar 42

*[Signature]* Lt-col  
Signature of Commander.

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

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
NO 312

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. COURTS OF INQUIRY - CONVENING OF

All losses or damage to stores or other Government property will be reported, as soon as possible, to this H.Q. Courts of Inquiry into the above where A.M.R. & O. 693 applies will be convened by the Bde Comd.

2. SCABIES

All personnel are warned that several cases of SCABIES have been reported within the Bn. washing of clothing by civilians and use of civilian barbers is the cause of the above cases. Coys will arrange for R.M.O. to inspect any civilians families to whom they wish to send washing.

3. INCREASE IN A.I.F. PAY

All personnel with allotments of 3/- and over whose allottees were in receipt of dependents allowance as at 7.11.41 and whose drawing rate was increased by 1/- per day at that date are instructed to have their paybooks adjusted forthwith.

PART 1 B

1. DETENTION

WX6992 Pte McEvoy R.C. B Coy To No 1 Detention Barracks  
Jerusalem 14 Mar 42.

2. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX5378 Pte Gardiner R.J. HQ Coy 8 Mar 42.  
WX7013 " Miller H.K. D " 6 Mar 42.  
WX5468 " Coward B.C. " 7 Mar 42.  
WX8815 " Moir E.E. B Coy 9 Mar 42.

3. PUNISHMENT.

WX6606 Pte Johns J.A. HQ Coy Used insubordinate language to  
his superior officer.  
Admonished. 9 Mar 42.

4. REJOINED UNIT

WX4969 Pte Brown W.J. A Coy From 2/3 CCS BEYROUTH 9 Mar 42.  
(Name removed from X List)  
WX4988 I Bailey A.J.E. B Coy From 9 Div Postal Unit 13 Mar 42.  
(Ceases to be detached).

5. TRANSFERS IN

VX40200 Lt-col Loughrey J. Bn HQ From 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. 13 Mar 42.  
SX7133 Pte McLachlan R.D. " do.

P.T.O.

*Handwritten signature*

IN THE FIELD  
10 MAR 42 (600 Day)

NO 1000

NO 1000

6. TRANSFERS OUT

WA6593 L/Cpl Wilson F.C. Bn HQ Moved out on transfer 7 May 42.  
WA6896 Pte Crombie K.O. A Coy To HQ, 24 Aust Inf Bde 14 Mar 42.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Ours mess, S's mess, Band S. t, 2 Men,  
Notice bo, file,  
Coys - H, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each).

*Handwritten signature* Capt.  
14/28 Aust Inf Bn.

NOTICE

and Col J.E. Lloyd (now T/Briadier) who has been appointed  
to a higher command and written to him that his sincerest appreciation  
of the staunch/continual loyalty shown by all ranks whilst he commanded  
the battalion be expressed to all ranks.

He also regrets the opportunity was not afforded him to  
speak to all ranks prior to his departure and hopes that at some later  
date it will be possible for him to do so personally.

TRANSFERS TO LIST

WA5578 Pte Gardner R.L. B Coy  
WA7015 " Miller R.K. " "  
WA5468 " Coward B.C. " "  
WA8815 " Blair R.E. B Coy

RETIRED UNIT

WA6606 Pte Jones J.A. B Coy  
Used subordinate language to  
his superior officer.  
Administered. 9 Mar 42.

RETIRED UNIT

WA5909 Pte Brown W.J. A Coy  
(Name removed from X list)  
WA5988 1 Bailey A.L.E. B Coy  
(Reason to be detached)

TRANSFERS IN

WA6000 Lt-col Dougherty J. Bn HQ  
From 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. 13 Mar 42.  
WA5155 Pte Melchior R.D. " "



16 March '42.

2/28 AUST. INF. BN.  
REPORT ON BN. DAWN ATTACK EXERCISE ON THE 12/13 MARCH '42.

The following remarks are forwarded, and are to be promulgated where applicable to all Ranks and to all Officers.

- I - OBJECT      The object of the exercise was -
- (a) To practice the Bn. in battle procedure
  - (b) To exercise the Bn. in a dawn attack supported by Arty. and M.M.G.
  - (c) To Test the Defence position occupied by B. Coy. 2/28 Bn.

REF. (a)

Owing to the lack of transport, feeding etc., it was impracticable to move Troops to the bivouac Area (as shown in O.O) the movement to Assembly Area being made by night March from Coy. Areas to arrive 0400Hrs.

This necessitated assembling "R" Group and only portion of "O" Group to view ground by day.

Battle procedure as performed under the circumstances, was quite efficient but Coy. Comds. must ensure all concerned are aware that opportunity would, when possible under normal circumstances, be given -

- (a) For pl. & sec. Comds. to view the ground by day and night

(b) For proportion of pl. & sec. Comds. to go over the route by night.

REF. (b)

The exercise was carried out quite successfully, and many lessons may be learned from difficulties encountered and actions taken.

To bring these points out the following is a precis covering the attack -

(I) MOVE TO ASSEMBLY AREA

By ~~March route~~ by Coys. from Coy. defensive Areas. D. Coy. being moved portion of the Journey by M.T.

With each Coy. a considerable distance had to be covered by "March Route" to reach Assy. Area. From this the following points are noted -

- (a) Movement over unfamiliar ground, by night, must, when possible be reconnoitred by day to ascertain most suitable route.  
 (in the case of A & C. Coys. although direction as shown by AZGA Valley was known, rough ground and dark night caused many falls and several casualties).
- (b) Movement by night over rough ground, although Troops experienced in such movement by day, must be at very slow rate, and allowance made accordingly. (In the case of A. & C. Coys. rate at approx. 30x. per minute - A. Coy. took 3½ hours to move approx. 3½ Miles).
- (c) On dark nights arrangements must be made for Men to keep contact with each other.  
 (In the cases of C. Coy. one platoon was late arriving at Assy. area as it lost contact, and in other cases men became lost - This maybe overcome by each man grasping the Baynet scabbard of the Man in front, of him (as done by A. Coy.) or by having a white patch on each mans back)

(2) ACTION AT ASSY. AREA

- (a) Area marked with Lamps, but as Guides did not meet Coys. on arrival confusion caused by enquiries from Coys. as to Coy. positions. Coys. must have a meeting place and Guide.

- (b) Hot Coffee and Biscuits available, but as only one serving point available which was moved from one Coy. to another, much time was wasted. Under such circumstances a serving point must be available for each Coy.

3 - MOVE TO F.U.P.

Due to time wasted in serving Coffee D. Coy left Assy. Area 9 minutes late and C. & A. Coy. were held up by a Pl. C. Coy. not arriving at Assy. area on time. This time was made up however by quicker movement to F.U.P. than time allowed (100x in 3 minutes).

Each Coy. moved in single file. This appears the most suitable information to use when moving along narrow tracks and necessary on dark nights to maintain contact and direction. Difficulty was experienced by A. Coy. in keeping direction by reason of having no guide; This was unfortunate as in accordance with orders one man in each section was to have gone over route prior to the attack. This was impracticable due to Troops not arriving Assy. area until 0400 hrs..

In actual practice these men could have been over route prior to attack and guides would have been available.

300x interval was ordered between A. & C. Coys. and A. Coy. detailed a section to maintain contact. Owing to darkness, it was found necessary to reduce this distance to 200x.

D. Coy. move to F.U.P. was carried out exceptionally well - men being well disciplined and controlled. A few Men with coughs might have given the enemy indication of the approach. With silent attacks such personnel should be left at the Assy. Area.

With A & C. Coys. too much talking was noticed - Complete silence must be maintained throughout these moves. Pl. and Sect. Comdrs. will ensure the importance of this is impressed on all Ranks.

In all Coys. rattling Mess Tins and clanking of Tin Hats on Rifles etc. was noticeable. At the Assy. Area a thorough inspection of equipment etc. must be made to ensure Men do not move without such matters being adjusted.

It appears that a complete silent move was impossible in Military Boots owing to Rocky ground. This could possibly be overcome by use of Sandshoes or Desert Boots.

Connecting Files were in some instances not established between Pl. resulting in Men calling each other to maintain direction. Obviously, contrary to all teaching

From above the following points must be noted -

- (a) Guides must be available for all Coys.
- (b) Connecting Files must be maintained between Coys. and Pl.
- (c) Inspection of Men for Coughs and Colds, and rattling equipment must be made at Assy. Area prior to moving to F.U.P.
- (d) Movement over narrow Tracks on dark nights must be made in single file.

4 - ATTACK

All Coys. formed up on F.U.P. in formation suitable for attack. (Some instances too much talking). The Guide with C. Coy. should have remained at F.U.P. to guide A. Coy. into position. As it was he ~~xxxix~~ moved on with C. Coy. and consequently A. Coy. was left to its own judgement resulting in the Coy. forming up approx. 100x ahead of F.U.P.

From F.U.P. the necessity for Compasses to be available to all Pl. Comdrs. was emphasised as direction was in some instances maintained only by "guess work".

D. COY. First objective taken by I6 Pl. I7 Pl. exploiting forward on right. I8 Pl. came through to take 2nd. objective but through lack of Compass Strayed to right and when mistake eventually adjusted found objective already in our hands portion of "C" Coy. having borne right and contacted the enemy.

C & A. COY.

Due to the bad light A. Coy. was unable to maintain information as to location of C. Coy., with the result it passed through C. Coy. unknown to either Coy.

After leaving F.U.P. O/C. C. Coy. took his Section Comdrs. forward to reconnoitre.

This seems to have been unnecessary as -

- (a) The Coy. halted and A. Coy. closed on to it.
- (b) The risk of all leaders of the Coy. being captured or fired upon by enemy posts or Patrols was unnecessarily taken and it is doubtful if any more was learned of the ground and Enemy posts.
- (c) Time was wasted and movement not carried out in accordance with Time table.

Difficulty was experienced by A. Coy. as to ascertaining when C. Coy. had gained its objective, and when to move through. A signal by Very light may have overcome this, but Liason should have been established by A. Coy. with C. Coy.

C. Coy. ultimately captured all objectives and A. Coy. moved further forward to achieve its objective on 12 pls. area (enemy)

POINTS TO NOTE

- (a) Once leaving F.U.P. the attack must continue steadily until objective gained.
- (b) Liason between Coys. must be maintained at all times.
- (c) All leaders must be conversant with direction of attack and position of objective, and carry a Compass.
- (d) Reported that the sound of cutting wire was, in some instances first indication to Enemy of approaching attack. It seems advisable that "Silent Cutters" be obtained. It is interesting to note, however, that men in Pill Boxes did not hear the cutting of the wire although only 30-40 yards away.

5 - G.R. PERSONNEL

This party was given orders to proceed from Assy. Area at 0400hrs. and to penetrate enemy defences and locate and destroy Enemy H.Q. and personnel.

By very skillful use of ground and wading the creek along the BEIT LARA Valley, this objective was achieved very successfully. The Coy. Comdrs. 2 I/c. and personnel being killed and communications destroyed.

Time available however, did not permit of them bringing prisoners to Bn. H.Q. for interrogation.

POINTS

- (a) G. R. personnel state they were guided to the H.Q. by the ringing of the telephone Bell.
- (b) Identification Papers from those killed were not removed by G.R. personnel. These would have been valuable for information purposes.

6 - ARTILLERY & M.M.G.

Being a silent attack Arty. & M.M.G. were used to engage the enemy by observation at first light. First light was shown to be at 0550 Hrs. but as heavy clouds were present all night and during the morning it was 0635Hrs. before observed fire could be effectively controlled.

At this time supporting fire by M.M.G. and Arty. were given by the neutralization of M.M.G. and Mortars which were reported to be holding A. Coy. from advancing.

M.M.G. ~~operated~~ operated from KNOLL feature vicinity Battle H.Q.

On gaining of objective by A. Coy., Arty. were given the task of harrassing fire NORTH along the AZGA Valley, but were unable to engage due to no observation.

This could have been effected had an F.O.O. moved forward to A. Coy. on capture of their objective.

REF. C.

From the success achieved by this attack it is apparent that more attention must be paid to the SOUTHERN flank of B. Coy. defences, and in this respect the following points were brought out -

In the event of a threat from SOUTH (as indicated in narrative)

- (a) Patrolling must be more active in that direction  
(No Patrol were encountered by attackers and listening posts were insufficient).
- (b) Siting of section Posts and weapon Pits do not provide in all areas for all round defense.  
(Attackers were able to gain high ground without opposition and then attack weapon pits from above).

(c) wiring in IO pl. Area is ~~to~~ near weapon Pits and no pl. wire has been erected.

LESSONS

From the lessons already enumerated here in, the following observations must be noted -

I - On a dark night with observation restricted, it is quite possible (or even easy) to ~~infiltrate~~ infiltrate Troops through, and deep into organised defences unknown to the defenders.

E.G.

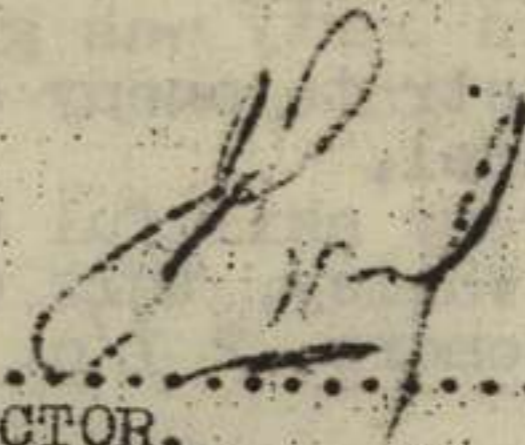
- (a) G.R. Personnel move to B. Coy. H.Q.
- (b) A. Coy. attack on I2 pl.

NOTE A more extensive system of patrolling and sentries may have countered in this direction.

2 - Close liason must be maintained by Coys. with each other. Without this the attack may be a failure by reason of Coys. becoming mixed and confusion transpiring.

E.G.

A. Coy. moving through C. Coy. before C. Coy. had gained its objective.

  
 ..... MAJOR  
DIRECTOR.

SECRET

10/

HQ, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn,  
In the Field.  
19 Mar 42.

TRAINING

1. The results of the recent firing on the classification Ranges reveal the urgent need for further weapon tng practice.
2. It is realised that some consideration must be given to the poor condition of the weapons used but the scores obtained were sufficiently bad to indicate that the fault lies largely with the individual.
3. All ranks must have sufficient tng to enable them to handle their weapons confidently so that there is no individual nervousness when firing ball amn.
4. Coys will include on their syllabus at least 3 hrs weapon tng weekly.
5. Particular attention will be given to:  
S.A.T. Vol I Pam 3 Lessons 1, 6 - 12, 13, 14  
S.A.T. Vol I Pam 4 Lessons 2, 3, 4.  
and T.O.B.T.s. will be conducted and repeated until all ranks have qualified.
6. Aiming discs are available for conducting L.M.G. T.O.B.T.s.
7. Coys will submit reports on the results of T.O.B.T.s. carried out by 6 Apr 42.
8. Zeroing of rifles will be completed as early as possible and all advantages taken by using miniature ranges as the amn becomes available.

DISTRIBUTION

Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D  
War Diary (2) File.

*Leypen Lough*, Capt.  
Adj't 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
NO 313

*Sandfly*

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. MALARIA

Anti-malarial measures to be enforced for the protection of personnel between dusk and dawn.

1. Villages placed out of bounds.
2. All ranks will wear long trousers, boots and anklets wet, shirts buttoned up at the neck and long sleeves rolled down.
3. Sentries, Guards and Picquets while on duty may be required to wear veils and gloves, or use anti-mosquito cream on exposed parts such as hands, head and neck. This cream must be reapplied every two hours when it will definitely repel Malaria-carrying Mosquitos.

Orders will be issued when the later precautions are considered necessary.

4. Anti-mosquito and Sand-Fly Nets. - This is the best personal protection against mosquito bites.

Strict net discipline is necessary to ensure that each man does not allow his net to remain torn. Even small holes must be mended immediately.

Nets will be let down and carefully tucked in all around between palliase and blankets in the hour preceding dusk.

On retiring, net must be carefully readjusted.

At reveille nets will be carefully tied at the bottoms and rolled up.

Platoon commanders will inspect nets daily.

5. Adult mosquitos seen either inside nets or in tents or houses will be immediately killed.

2. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

The following sentences awarded by Courts Martial held recently are published for information.

- (a) A private soldier convicted of selling public property (blankets) was sentenced to 6 months detention.
- (b) A private soldier convicted of selling public property (blankets) was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment with hard labour.
- (c) A sergeant ...P.C. convicted of attempting to obtain money by false pretences and wearing badges of rank to which he was not entitled was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks and to 6 months imprisonment without hard labour.
- (d) A warrant officer (class I) convicted of forgery was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks and to 60 days detention.
- (e) Three private soldiers convicted of striking a superior officer were sentenced to 12 months and 9 months detention.
- (f) A private soldier convicted of stealing property belonging to a person subject to military law was sentenced to 6 months detention.
- (g) A private soldier convicted of sleeping on his post and escaping from confinement was sentenced to 90 days detention.
- (h) A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command, and striking his superior officer was sentenced to 60 days detention.

3. ECONOMY IN USE OF TYRES

When drivers are on local duty, they will either carry lunch or have it with the unit at which they are at the approximate time. Vehicles will not return from local duty to enable the driver to lunch at his unit.

4. BRASS CARTRIDGE CASES - SALVAGE

Coyes are reminded that ALL types of brass cartridge cases are valuable salvage, and should be returned through salvage channels.

5. LEADED PETROL PRECAUTIONS

Almost all the petrol now being supplied ex Military Depots and ex Civil Pumps in Middle East contains a proportion of TETRA-ETHYL LEAD which is poisonous and care will be taken by all concerned in its use. Petrol should not be used for the cleaning of garments or washing utensils, or any part of the body.

The practice of sucking petrol up a rubber tube, in order to syphon it out of the tanks of motor vehicles, will be discontinued.

If for any reason the hands have become contaminated with petrol, they should be washed as soon as possible. When petrol comes into contact with open wounds (scratches etc) the wound should be thoroughly cleaned immediately.

6. HYGIENE QUESTIONS - EQUIPMENT

Attention is drawn to the importance, for hygienic reasons, of ensuring that all ranks maintain their blankets and palliasses, where applicable, in as clean a condition as possible.

Os 6 will issue instructions to the effect that all blankets are to be shaken each day and exposed to the sun for a minimum of 4 hours weekly. Palliasses will be exposed to the sun for a similar period.

When men sleep on the ground, blankets and palliasses will be exchanged and laundered at 6 monthly intervals.

Blankets or palliasses handed in for exchange and laundering in accordance with the above, need not be disinfected, except if the occurrence in the unit concerned of cases of infectious or contagious disease or of infestation with lice makes it necessary.

7. BOOTS ANKLE

War clothing regulations para ii states units must maintain a stock of boots representing 10% of unit strength. It is found that when detachments are posted from the parent unit this is not being carried out.

Indents will be submitted to enable this to be done, quoting as authority 9A/470/OS of 11 Mar.

For detachments or units under 150 in strength the following stocks will be carried :-

<u>Strength</u>	<u>Stock</u>	<u>Sizes</u>
15 to 150	Minimum of 15 prs	Ranging from 6 to 10
14 or less	1 pr for each man	Correct size for each man.

( Not applicable to A.I.F. )

8. SECURITY

Identity of Visitors. Guards and sentries will satisfy themselves of the identity and bona fides of all visitors, whether in uniform or not. If any doubt exists, sentries will demand to see pay book or officers identity card in the case of military personnel and "D" pass or unit pass in the case of civilians. If visitors are unable to establish their identity they will be escorted to an officer for identification.

Entry of Buildings etc by Civilians. Hawkers, shoe shine boys, loiterers or any other civilians, except authorised unit interpreters will NOT be permitted to enter any office, building or tent occupied or used by units. It is the responsibility of all ranks to discourage loiterers and to report any suspicious behaviour of civilians or military personnel to an officer, preferably their unit security officer.

(Continued).

9. RABIES - PREVENTIVE MEASURES

In view of the prevalence of rabies in SYRIA & THE LEBANON, the number of dogs allowed with units will be strictly limited. The numbers will be left to the discretion of Commanding Officers, and a permit will be issued for those authorised by him. This permission to retain dogs does NOT extend to AIF units.

All authorised dogs will be licensed in accordance with local regulations.

All unauthorised dogs held will be destroyed under unit arrangements, and stray dogs handed over to the local gendarmerie for destruction.

In the event of any person being bitten by any animal suspected of rabies or by any stray dog, he should report at once for first aid treatment.

If the animal is known and is traced and appears in good health, arrangements should be made for it to be tied up and kept under observation by a Medical Officer for 10 days. If, at the end of this period it is in good health, there is no possibility of it having been infected at the time of biting. If the animal has been killed it should be taken to the nearest M.O. If possible it should not be shot in the head or the brain damaged.

If the animal cannot be traced or appears strange in manner, anti-rabic treatment should be begun at once, through medical channels.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 187.)

10. BOUNDS

Until further notice, ELKIM PALACE HOTEL is placed out of bounds to all ranks of the forces.

Officers' Club Tripoli

Closing hours will be as follows :-

Saturday 2400 hrs.  
Other nights 2330 hrs.

11. SHOWERS

The practice of personnel proceeding to the showers at ZGHORTA individually is to cease immediately.

The Bn has been allotted from 1430 - 1630 hrs Monday to Saturday inclusive for use of showers during which time approx 60 men may shower each day.

All parties for showers will be arranged by O/C HQ Coy due consideration being given to personnel staging at Rear HQ and so that personnel proceeding do not interfere with duties or training as arranged.

All parties must be conducted and moved as an organised body by an officer who will be responsible for discipline and behaviour of the party.

12. OINTMENT ANTI-GAS NO 1 and No 2.

It has been found in many instances that lids of Anti-Gas Ointment Containers have become affixed to the container as the result of the accumulation of dust etc.

Coys will ensure that all such lids are loosened at least twice monthly.

13. HYGIENE AND CLEANLINESS OF TENTS AND HUTS

With the approach of warmer weather and the presence of flies the risk of outbreak of disease is considerably increased, consequently more attention is to be given to general cleanliness and tidiness throughout the Bn area.

In this respect daily inspections of Coy and Bn HQ areas will be performed as arranged by Coys, for Coy areas, and by Orderly Officer at Bn HQ, the strictest scrutiny being given to Cookhouses, Latrines, Tents and Huts, refuse pits and surrounding grounds.

13/Cont.



13. (Contd).

The Kit layout as observed in PALESTINE will apply and disciplinary action taken with offenders both relative to tidiness of lines and tents and general hygiene.

PART 1 B

1. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX5900	Pte Watson M	C Coy	16 Mar 42.
WX7125	S/Sgt Anderson S.G.	"	17 Mar 42.
WX4868	Sgt Lock A.G.	Hq "	"
WX5914	Pte Murphy E.J.	C "	"

2. DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.S.M., R.M.O., T.O., I.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, war Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Lch,  
Notice bd, File, Amenities offr,  
Coys - Hq, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each).

*James ...* Capt.  
Adj 2 28 Aust Inf Bn.

NOTICES

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

Receipt is acknowledged of the following Comforts which have been distributed to Coys:-

Cigarettes	(pkts)	1680
P Ks	(pkts)	1680

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

The Officiating Minister for Christian Scientists M.E.F. Mr. T.E. Price intends to tour Syria from 6 Apr 42 to 13 Apr 42.

Personnel desiring to communicate with him should write to him at the following address :-

By a Fig Tree, Greek Colony, Jerusalem.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 314

17  
War Diary

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST. INF BN

1. CHURCH PARADES SUNDAY 22 MARCH 1942.

- 0700 hrs Anglican and Protestant Denominations :  
0730 hrs Holy Communion in YMCA Recreation Hut.  
0900 hrs Church parade in YMCA Recreation Hut. Parade to be formed up on main roadway near Hut at 0850 hrs.  
Dress Service Dress, gaiters, belt and sidearms, hats turned up.  
R.C. 1030 hrs. Mass in village Church at 24 Bde H.Q.

2. SUMMER DRESS

Summer dress will be taken into wear on 1 Apr.

This dress may be worn on occasions prior to 1 Apr, at discretion of Comds of Bdes etc and Div units, provided that all members of a unit are dressed uniformly.

Sufficient articles of summer uniform are in process of issue to all units, to permit of this action. For the present trousers K.D. will be worn, until shorts are issued.

The remaining articles, as under, will be issued shortly:-

Shorts, puttees, stocking tops, singlets.

Special attention is drawn to Orders of Dress (A.I.F. Order 296) and in particular to the following :-

- (a) Shirts - Sleeves must not be cut short, and will be worn buttoned down to the wrist after night-fall.  
(b) Medal Ribbons - will be worn on shirts (A.I.F. Order 770)  
(c) Rank Badges (Officers) and Titles "AUSTRALIA" - Embroidered badges and titles may be worn by officers only on shirts K.D. ONLY at own expense (A.I.F. Order 458). Metal Badges and titles will be worn on jackets. Embroidered titles will NOT be worn by O.Rs.

(Applicable to A.I.F. only).

- (d) Rank Badges (WOs and NCOs) - See A.I.F. Order 409. WOs will NOT wear badges on wrist bands or detachable arm-bands.

(Applicable to A.I.F. only).

- (e) SAFARI SHIRTS - With reference to A.I.F. Order 568 safari shirts will not be worn by personnel of 9 Aust Div.

Until further instructions, washing will be done under unit arrangements.

Separate orders are issued for return of winter clothing.

( 9 Div R.O. 190).

3. MAIL

As direct sea communication provides generally the most expeditious form of mail connection with AUSTRALIA, no further air mail rates will be charged on correspondence for AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND, Air Mail covers may be used but no stamps are required.

Air mail correspondence may, however, continue to be accepted at the existing rates for other parts of the world, including INDIA, but excluding of course the Far Eastern countries now in enemy possession.

**4. ANTI-FLY MEASURES**

Fly breeding is now well established in the Divisional Area.

Diarrhoeal diseases, dysentery and typhoid are very common in SYRIA.

Cleanliness of lines, flyproofing of latrines and food containers are essential as is the provision of flyproof refuse bins.

Refuse disposal MUST be by incineration and burial so that flybreeding material is not provided by us.

Removal of refuse by native contractors will cease forthwith.

Units living in billets will be responsible for carting, incineration and burial of their own refuse.

It is impossible to prevent flies from breeding and becoming infected in native villages therefore they must be prevented from coming in contact with food and eating utensils.

( 9 Aust Div R.O. 193.)

PART 1 B

**1. APPOINTMENT**

WX6793 Pte Lillee P. Bn HQ Apptd L/Cpl 20 Mar 42.

**2. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH**

WX10665 Pte Bunn M.G. " Coy 16 Mar 42.

**3. PUNISHMENTS**

WX4432 Pte Liddelow M.W. HQ Coy AWL Fined £1. Auto forf 3 days pay. 19 Mar 42.

WX6091 " Jenkins H. " AWL Fined £2. Auto forf 3 days pay. 19 Mar 42.

WX6636 " Elias C.L. " do.

**4. TRAIL GROUPING**

WX8089 Pte Harvey W.R. HQ Coy A/TG ii (Sig) confirmed 20 Mar 42.

WX6813 " Paterson J.C. " do.

**5. TRANSFER OUT**

WX5340 Pte Peters S.F. HQ Coy To No 6 Anti-Malaria Control Unit 20 Mar 42.

PART 1B CONT.

**5. HYGIENE**

Certain personnel in/area <sup>Bn HQ</sup> are putting orange peel and other rubbish in the Urine tins. This practice necessitates extra fatigues being arranged to clean out. This practice will cease forthwith and disciplinary action will be taken against anyone disobeying this instruction.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Oftrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Lch,  
Notice bd, File,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D (2 each),  
4 Pl and 10 Pl (1 each).

*Rebecca Kent* Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

*2/28* *Regt. Inf Div* (Unit)

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	2	1	
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	61		
Lieutenants ... <i>incl QM</i>	21		2
2nd Lieutenants ...	21	2	
Quartermasters ...			
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt.-col		Lloyd J.E.	2/25 Bn	No	No 15. Sent Offs Course
Maj (T/Lt.-col)		Loughrey J.		Yes	Co
Maj		Cor J.P.			2/4
		BRENNAN J.G.			OC HQ Coy.
		BUNTINE M.A.			OC B Coy.
Capt		THOMPSON J.B.			OC D Coy.
		SIMPSON B.			OC C Coy.
		NORTHWOOD V.R.			OC A Coy.
		STENHOUSE T.R.			2/4 B Coy.
		NEWBERY J.C.			2/4 A Coy.
		TAYLOR A.L.F.			2/4 C Coy.
Lieut.		KEALL G.			I.O.
" (T/capt)		LAMB L.			Adj't
		MASEL P.			PL Comdr
		FREEDMAN H.J.			
		WARING E.		No	Det to 74th Hdq. Sec.
" (T/capt)		YATES G.H.		Yes	QM
		ELLIS C.C.			PL Comdr
		HEAD T.M.			
		HALL R.J.			
		NORRIS H.J.C.			(T.O.)
		GAMBLE H.F.			
		WALKER S.A.J.			
		ROBERTSON T.P.			
		HICKEY M.			
		STEWART R.S.			A/2/4 D Coy
		PARRY G.L.W.			PL Comdr
		PIPER D.W.			
		HARROD E.C.			
		EASTMAN E.A.			
		BIRD N.H.T.			
		GREAM G.R.			
		DAKER G.E.S.			
		CHADWICK R.F.			

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	QX19059	PRIDDIS K.W.	2/5th Amb	17.7.41	RMO
Chaplain	WX3409	MALDONALD B.T.	AACHD	26.7.40	Chaplain
Lieut.	WX6525	MONRO A.D.	249 I.T.B.	12.11.41	} o/p over W.E.
	WX10568	DRAPER J.W.			
	WX6805	PATERSON C.W.R.		17.12.41	
	WX11087	THOMAS E.		30.12.41	

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
(Unit.)

21 Mar 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature of Commander.)  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

*2/28 Aust. Inf. Bn.* (Unit). *21 Mar 1942* (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1	.	.
W.Os. Class II.	5	.	1
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	3		2
Staff Serjeants		.	.
Serjeants	31	.	.
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals <i>+ 2/5/6</i>	69	.	.
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	675	.	25
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>784</b>	*	* <b>28</b>

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
<i>Sgt</i> 1	<i>ARPC</i>	<i>Plt</i> 1	<i>ARPC (Shoemaker)</i>
<i>Sgt</i> 1	<i>ARMC</i>	<i>Cpl</i> 1	<i>9 Div Post. Unit</i>
<i>Cpl</i> 1	<i>ARMC (Chiropractic)</i>	<i>Plt</i> 1	<i>ARCh D (Baker)</i>
<i>Plt</i> 1	<i>ARMC (Orderly)</i>		
<i>Cpl</i> 1	<i>ARVC (Armoured)</i>		
<i>Cpl</i> 1	<i>- (Fitter MV)</i>		
<i>Plt</i> 2	<i>-</i>		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ... ..																				
"  " (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ... ..																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ... ..																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers ... ..																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties... ..																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ... ..											1	2							25	28
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).											1	2							25	28

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

*[Signature]* Lt.-Col  
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch. 21 March

24 Aust Inf Bn  
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 315

*War Diary*

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. BOUNDS

The town of HOMS is placed out of bounds for all troops, except F.F.F., who are not stationed there on duty.

2. CAPES - ANTI-GAS

In future Capes, Anti-Gas, will not be used in lieu of waterproof sheets.

3. WIRELESS SETS

Cases have occurred of personnel in Coys endeavouring to repair the Coy wireless set when out of order resulting in further damage being created. Under NO circumstances will members of Coys attempt to repair Coy sets. When out of order sets will be returned to C.M. who will have repairs effected by a qualified wireless mechanic.

4. RETURNS - RENDITION OF

Returns required from Coys are NOT being rendered on time.

O.C. Coys will ensure that returns as required are rendered by the date specified or an explanation given in lieu of the return stating reason for delay.

5. DUTIES

Orderly Officer at Bn HQ will ensure that the staging hut is thoroughly cleaned and swept daily. H.Q. Coy is responsible for this duty.

PART 1B

1. INTER COY TRANSFER

WX7344 Pte Lester J.B. D Coy To HQ Coy 21 Mar 42.

2. ATTACHMENT

WX4922 Lieut Osborne N. HQ Coy Attached from 24 AITB 22 Jan 42.

3. DETACHMENTS

WX7010 Sgt Chester L.C. B Coy Detached to Staff, Detention Barracks, TRIPOLI 24 Mar 42.  
WX7574 Pte Stanley C.T. " do.  
WX7454 " Bainbridge M. " do.

4. PUNISHMENT

WX5070 Pte Woods V. HQ Coy AWL. Admonished 21 Mar 42.

5. REJOINED UNIT

WX6888 Sgt Allan R.T. B Coy From 9 Army WTS BEIRUT. 21 Mar 42.

6. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST

WX4711 Pte Backhouse J.W. HQ Coy 22 Mar 42.  
WX6187 " Bell J.L. " "  
WX7051 " Clark V.J. " "  
WX6821 " Mallan T.R. " "  
WX6884 Cpl Jamieson C.D. " "  
WX5052 Pte Stevens E. " "  
WX4426 L/Cpl Ellis J.A. Bn HQ "  
WX4441 Pte Masters G.J.H. A Coy "  
WX6050 " Robertson J.D. B Coy "  
WX4487 " Watson S.A. C Coy "  
WX7126 Cpl East S.H. D Coy "  
WX6905 Pte Fogg A.E. " "



REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST (CONT)

WX7566 Sgt Morris E.G. D Coy 22 Mar 42.

7. TRADE GROUPING

WX4928 Pte Salter W.E. HQ Coy Relinquished/TG 11 (Sig) 22 Mar 42. acting

8. TRANSFER OUT

WX3148 Pte Spargo A.E. H. Coy To 2/7 Aust Fd Regt. 23 Mar 42.

9. SCHOOLS AND COURSES

WX10568 Lieut Draper J.W. C Coy ME P & RT School No 6 Offrs Course 23 Feb/7 Mar 42. qualified.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, war Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Ech,  
Notice bd, File,  
Coys - H., A, B, C & D (2 each), 10 Pl (1).

*Handwritten signature* Capt.  
Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

PART II

1. TRANSFER COY

To HQ Coy 21 Mar 42.

2. ATTACHMENT

Attached from 24 AIF 22 Jan 42.

3. DETACHMENT

Detached to 24 AIF, 24 Mar 42.

4. RELEASING UNIT

Admitted 21 Mar 42.

5. RELEASING UNIT

From 2 AIF 21 Mar 42.

RELEASING UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST

No	Name	Rank	Unit	Date
1	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...
6	...	...	...	...
7	...	...	...	...
8	...	...	...	...
9	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...
11	...	...	...	...
12	...	...	...	...
13	...	...	...	...
14	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...
16	...	...	...	...
17	...	...	...	...
18	...	...	...	...
19	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...
21	...	...	...	...
22	...	...	...	...
23	...	...	...	...
24	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...
26	...	...	...	...
27	...	...	...	...
28	...	...	...	...
29	...	...	...	...
30	...	...	...	...
31	...	...	...	...
32	...	...	...	...
33	...	...	...	...
34	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...
36	...	...	...	...
37	...	...	...	...
38	...	...	...	...
39	...	...	...	...
40	...	...	...	...
41	...	...	...	...
42	...	...	...	...
43	...	...	...	...
44	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...
46	...	...	...	...
47	...	...	...	...
48	...	...	...	...
49	...	...	...	...
50	...	...	...	...

HQ, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn,  
In the Field.  
25 MAR 42.

Copy No .....

STANDING ORDERS - SECURITY GD R.E. & A.A.

D.POTS - ALMA

Ref Map TRIPOLI Special 1:25000 Sheet 1.

ORGANIZATION :

- 1. Strength : Gp I - 1 Offr, 1 Sgt, 3 Cpls, 1 Batman, 28 Ptes.  
 Gp II - 1 Offr, 1 Sgt, 4 Cpls, 2 cooks, 1 batman, 29 Ptes.  
 Gp III - 1 Offr, 2 Sgts, 4 Cpls, 1 batman, 2 cooks, 60 Ptes.
- 2. Areas : Gp I - Amn & RE Stores at 16532763.  
 Gp II - HQ & RE Stores at 16582759.  
 Gp III - 2 Sub Area A.A.D. at 16652755.

Sentries and patrols will not interfere in control of other areas which are the responsibility of the Free French, unless called upon by them to render assistance.

3. Responsibility:

- Gp I - CC Gp I
- Gp II - CC Gp II
- Gp III - CC Gp III

- 4. Posts: as shown in att tracings. (Gp I - 7 posts.  
 (Gp II - 8 posts.  
 (Gp III - 15 Posts.

5. Reliefs: 4 reliefs are provided for each post. Each man will do two hrs on and 6 off duty.

DUTIES :

- 6. To guard RE and Amn stores in respective areas.
- 7. No person except in possession of pass and identity card or pay-book is permitted to enter area at any time. Civilians, even if in possession of passes, are NOT permitted to take baskets or other receptacles into store areas.
- 8. NO SMOKING signs are displayed in areas where smoking is prohibited. Sentries and picquets will ensure compliance with these orders by all persons.
- 9. Prowler picquets will NOT remain stationary on their patrols.

PERIOD OF DUTY AND RELIEFS :

10. Tour of Duty : 24 MAR 42 - 2 APR 42.

ADMINISTRATION :

- 11. Messing : Q.M. will deliver rations and water daily to Gp II and III. Gp I will mess with Gp II.
- 12. Cooking Arrangements : Gp I and II meals will be cooked in Gp I areas. Stove is available for cooking purposes. Gp III rations will be delivered to Gp III and meals prepared by Gp III independently of other Gps.

...../2

13. Accommodation :

	Provided by R.E.	To be taken by Bn supplying Guard.
Gp I	3 RD	3 RD
Gp II	2 E.P.I.P.	4 RD
Gp III	4 RD	5 RD
		2 E.P.I.P.

14. Security of Arms & Amn is responsibility of personnel to whom issued. O.C. Group will take every precaution to ensure that Arms and Amn are adequately guarded.

SPECIAL WARNING :

15. Large quantities of explosives are stored in the area to be guarded. All ranks are warned that indiscriminate discharge of fire-arms may have disastrous results.

INTERCOMN :

16. Telephone : is available at HQ Gp 11, 24 Bde switch.

*MA Jumper* Major.  
O.C., Guard 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

- Distbn :
- |           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Copy No 1 | 2/28 Aust Inf Bn |
| 2         | 24 Aust Inf Bde  |
| 3         | War Diary        |
| 4         | War Diary        |
| 5         | File             |
| 6         | O.C. Gp I        |
| 7         | O.C. Gp II       |
| 8         | O.C. Gp III      |
| 9         | O.C. R.E. Dump   |
| 10        | O.C. Guards.     |

130/6/61

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.  
27 Mar 42.

*File*

*16.*

2/28 Bn ✓  
2/32 Bn  
2/43 Bn

Guard of Honour - 28 Mar

1. The following points regarding the turnout of personnel who paraded for practice with Bde Gd of Honour are set out so that steps may be taken for improvement before the next parade :-

- (a) Mixture of new and old uniforms - All must wear a good uniform, and if necessary be provided with one for the parade. Colour patches will be worn.
- (b) Hats of Tobruk vintage are not improved by Paris fashioning.
- (c) Web equipment varying in shade to white. Equipment of very light shade must not be worn, for sake of uniformity.
- (d) Braces should be crossed left over right.
- (e) Rifle slings should be web, scrubbed clean and drawn taut.
- (f) All except Offrs and W.Os. will wear magazine pouches padded out and adjusted high.
- (g) In cases, equipment was mud caked, heavily marked with owner's name or frayed.
- (h) Bayonet scabbards were not polished.

2. In short, the turnout of the Guard for practice was not impressive, but may be improved very materially if units will make it their aim to turn out their own representatives perfectly, and closely inspect their dress in unit lines before the parade. Bearing and drill were satisfactory.

3. Five Gds, representing the Div will parade on the same ground, and it is the Bde Comd's wish that our Gd shall impress, and if possible outshine the others on parade.

*DR Jackson*  
Maj.  
B.M. 24 Aust Inf Bde.

*Ceet lunch to be provided*

<i>4pt</i>	<i>A &amp; C</i>	<i>Capt</i>	<i>0830</i>
	<i>B</i>	<i>Carv</i>	<i>0900</i>

2/28  
H.Q., 9 Aust Div.  
27 Mar 42.

INVESTITURE BY G.O.C.-in-C. M.E.F.

Reference MAP - TRIPOLI 1 : 50,000.

1. The G.O.C.-in-C. M.E.F. will present the ribbons of their decorations to the recipients of Honours and Awards, as shown in Appendix 'B' at 16692805 at 1400 hrs on 28 Mar. 42.

2. PARADE -- Representatives of units will be provided as under :-

No. 1 Coy (R.A.A.) 1 maj, 3 lieuts, 2 WOs, 2 Sgts, 100 rank and file.

No. 2 Coy (20 Bde Gp) ~ 9 Aust Div Cav Regt - 1 lieut, 30 rank and file.

20 Aust Inf Bde - 1 maj (comdg), 2 lieuts,  
2 WOs, 2 sgts, 90 rank and file.

No. 3 Coy (Composite Gp)- R.A.E. - 1 maj (comdg), 1 WO, 25 rank and file.

Sigs - 1 lieut, 25 rank and file.

MG Bn - 1 lieut, 1 WO, 25 rank and file.

AASC - 1 lieut, 1 sgt, 25 rank and file.

Med Units (will NOT carry rifles)

2/3 Aust Fd Amb - 1 sgt 6 rank and file.

2/8 Aust Fd Amb - 7 rank and file

2/11 Aust Fd Amb- 7 rank and file

No. 4 Coy (24 Bde Gp) - 24 Aust Inf Bde - 1 maj (comdg), 3 lieuts, 2 WOs,  
1 sgt, 100 rank and file.

H.Q. 9 Aust Div - 1 sgt, 20 rank and file.

No. 5 Coy (26 Bde Gp) - 26 Aust Inf Bde - 1 maj (comdg), 2 lieuts, 2 WOs,  
1 sgt, 100 rank and file.

2/1 A.F.W. - 1 lieut, 2 sgts, 20 rank and file.

3. COMD.

The parade will be under comd Lt.-Col. D.A. WHITEHEAD M.C., 2/32 Aust. Inf. Bn.

4. FORMATION

(a) The Coys will form up as shown in Appendix 'A' and the following procedure will be adopted on the arrival of the C.-in-C.

- (i) General Salute - Present Arms.
- (ii) Slope Arms
- (iii) Order Arms
- (iv) Inspection by C.-in-C.
- (v) Form Hollow Square
- (vi) Presentation of ribbons.
- (vii) Address by C.-in-C.
- (viii) Slope Arms
- (ix) General Salute - Present Arms (on departure of C.-in-C.)

(b) Comd of parade will ensure that the C.-in-C's entire party is in position on the parade ground before the General Salute is given.

(c) On the order 'General Salute - Present Arms' all ofrs on parade will salute and all unarmed other ranks will stand to attention.

5. DRESS

Dress will be :-

- (a) Guards - Officers - F.S. Web Drill Order, boots, gaiters, hats turned up.
- O.Rs. - S.D. Web Drill Order, boots, gaiters, hats turned up.

(b) Recipients of Decorations -

- Officers - F.S. Web belts and pistols, boots, gaiters and hats turned up.
- O.Rs. - S.D. Web belts and side arms, boots, gaiters and hats turned up. (Web braces will not be worn - rifles will NOT be carried.)

Ribbons now worn of the decoration to be received will be removed before the parade.

6. BANDS

Bands will be provided by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn and 2/28 Aust Inf Bn to form a composite band.

7. TIMING

Personnel are required to parade at the following times :-

- (a) Guards - 1330 hrs.
- (b) Recipients of Decorations - 1340 hrs.

8. MARKING PARADE GROUND.

24 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for assembling the parade and for clearance, levelling and marking the ground.

9. PICQUETS


26 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for picqueting the area and preventing the entry of unauthorized persons.

10. TRAFFIC

(a) D.A.P.M., 9 Aust Div will select a suitable site for the parking of tp carrying tpt and will ensure that traffic on the road between TRIPOLI and the parade ground is kept moving and that only fast moving tpt is allowed to use the road leading past the ground. Horse drawn and other slow moving vehicles will not be permitted to pass the ground.

(b) Only the vehicles of the C.-in-C's party will be allowed on the parade ground.

11. Bde and Regt and Bn comds may attend.  
No other personnel will be permitted to attend the investiture.

  
Col.  
A.A. & Q.M.G., 9 Aust Div.

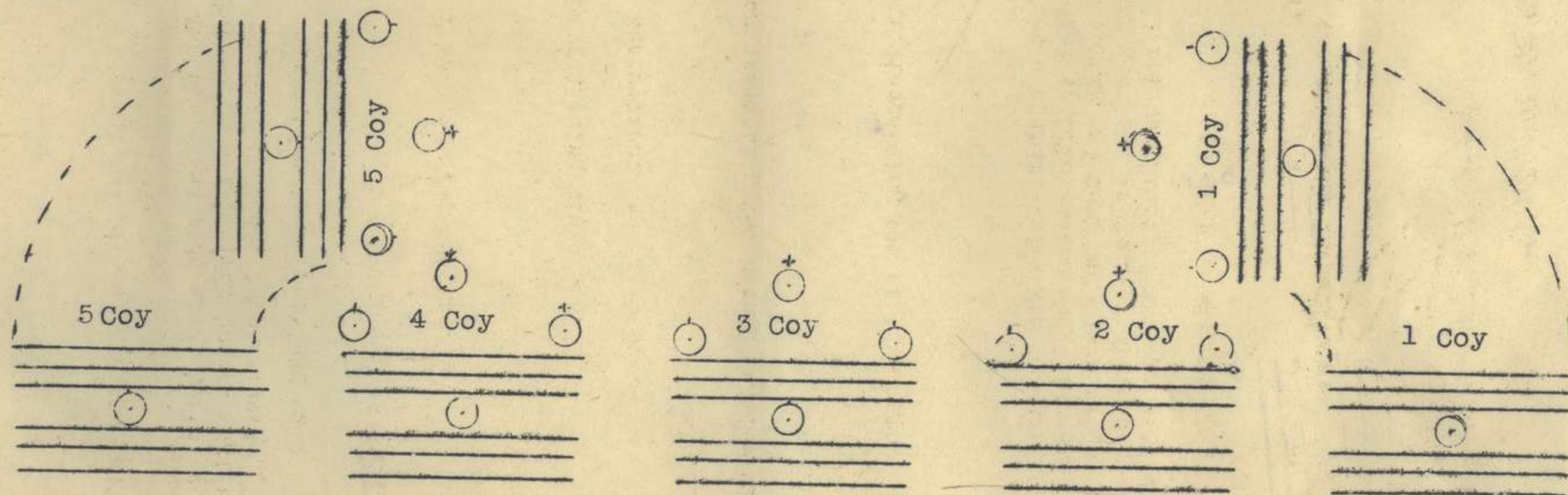
DISTRIBUTION LIST 'B' less serials ( 9, 10, 19,20,21,).

Recipients of Decorations

+ Flagpole

□ Table

Bn  
Comds



□ Band

9 AUST. DIV.HONOURS AND AWARDSPRESENTATION OF RIBBONS BY C.-in-C. - 28 MAR. 42.

- - - -

Maj.-Gen. Sir Leslie MORSHEAD	H.Q., 9 Aust Div	K.B.E.
Brig. R.W. TOVELL	26 Aust Inf Bde	Bar to D.S.O.
Brig. A.H.L. GODFREY	24 Aust Inf Bde	Bar to D.S.O.
Col. T.P. COOK	Tripoli Port	C.B.E.
Col. H. WELLS	H.Q., 9 Aust Div	O.B.E.
Lt.-Col. B. EVANS	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	D.S.O.
Lt.-Col. B.S. HANSON	2/8 Aust Fd Amb	O.B.E.
Maj. A.S. GEHRMANN	H.Q., R.A.E., 9 Aust Div	D.S.O.
Maj. J.W. BALFE	2/17 Aust Inf Bn	M.C.
Maj. L. McCARTER	2/32 Aust Inf Bn	M.C.
Maj. C.H.B. NORMAN	H.Q., 9 Aust Div	M.C.
Maj. T. LUXTON	H.Q., 9 Aust Div	M.B.E.
Capt. R. RATTRAY	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	M.C.
Capt. F.L. BODE	2/15 Aust Inf Bn	M.C.
Capt. W.W. COBB	2/15 Aust Inf Bn	M.C.
Capt. J.L. ALLAN	H.Q., 24 Aust Inf Bde	M.C.
Lieut. P.S. HAYMAN	2/24 Aust Inf Bn	M.C.
Lieut. J.W. OVERALL	2/13 Aust Fd Coy	M.C.
Lieut. J.T. FINLAY	2/24 Aust Inf Bn	M.C.
Lieut. H.G. DAVIES	2/32 Aust Inf Bn	M.B.E.
Lieut. C.G. RIGG	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
WO II J.W. BARNARD	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	D.C.M.
WO II A.J. HARRISON	2/32 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
WO II R.B. QUINN	2/43 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Sgt. J.E. SEARLE	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	D.C.M.
Sgt. J.K. WESTON	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	D.C.M.
Sgt. K.R. WAIT	9 Aust Div Cav Regt	M.M.
Sgt. R.J. CARSTAIRS	9 Aust Div Cav Regt	M.M.
Sgt. G.W.D. McCARTHY	3 Aust A.Tk Regt	M.M.
Sgt. A.A. McILRICK	3 Aust A.Tk Regt	M.M.
Sgt. R. McILROY	2/17 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Sgt. C.H. CAWTHORNE	2/43 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Sgt. E.V. LODGE	2/43 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Sgt. D.R. HOOK	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Sgt. G.S. STUCKEY	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Sgt. C.B. HAYES	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
A/Sgt. W.B. CURREN	2/43 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Cpl. J. BRYNE	9 Aust Div Cav Regt	M.M.
Cpl. T.J. McGREEVY	2/13 Aust Fd Coy	M.M.
Cpl. C.J. GRAY	2/24 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Cpl. T.R. GOODE	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
L/Cpl. F.O. BOOTH	2/28 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
L/Cpl. H.B. NUTT	2/28 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
L/Cpl. D.W. HUTCHINSON	2/28 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
L/Cpl. H.D. GENNER	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Gnr. R.J. BALDWIN	3 Aust A.Tk Regt	M.M.
Spr.W. MADAMS	2/3 Aust Fd Coy	M.M.
Pte. H. FERRES	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Pte. L.T. FERKINS	2/13 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Pte. M.J. O'CONNELL	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Pte. J.M. KELLY	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Pte. H.P. CLARK	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Pte. L. BENNETT	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Pte. J.L. SPAVIN	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Pte. R.G. DANIELS	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.
Pte. P.M. ANDERSON	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	M.M.

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# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

*2/28 Aust. Inf Bn (Unit)*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	6		2
Lieutenants ... <i>7 Captains incl QM</i>	2		
2nd Lieutenants ...	21	2	
Quartermasters ...			
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lt.-col.	Lloyd	2/28 Bn	7.5.42	Relinquished command & transfer to General List (see List No 72)

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

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Major (T/Capt)		LOUGHREY J.	2/28 B	Yes	C.O.
Major		COX J.P.	"	No	9 Army Tour.
"		DRENNAN J.G.	"	Yes	A 2 1/2
"		BUNTINE M.A.	"	"	A/O.C. H.Q. Coy
Capt		THOMPSON J.B.	"	"	O.C. D. Coy
"		SIMPSON B.	"	"	O.C. C. Coy
"		NORTHWOOD V.R.	"	"	O.C. A. Coy
"		STANHOUSE T.R.	"	"	A/O.C. B. Coy
"		NEWBERY J.C.	"	No	METS.
"		TAYLOR A.L.F.	"	Yes	2 1/2 C. Coy
Lieut		KEALL G.	"	"	I.O.
(T/Capt)		LAMB L.	"	"	Adj't
"		MASEL P.	"	"	PL. COMDR
"		FREEDMAN H.J.	"	"	"
"		WARING E.	"	No	Det. to 6 A.M.E. Unit
(T/Capt)		YATES G.H.	"	Yes	Q.M.
"		ELLIS C.C.	"	"	PL. COMDR
"		HEAD J.M.	"	"	"
"		HALL R.J.	"	"	A 2 1/2 B. Coy
"		NORRIS H.J.C.	"	"	PL. COMDR (T.O.)
"		GAMBLE H.F.	"	"	A 2 1/2 A. Coy
"		WALKER S.A.J.	"	"	PL. COMDR
"		ROBERTSON T.P.	"	"	"
"		HICKEY M.	"	"	"
"		STEWART R.S.	"	"	A 2 1/2 D. Coy
"		PARRY G.L.W.	"	"	PL. COMDR
"		PIPER D.W.	"	"	"
"		HARROD E.C.	"	"	"
"		EASTMAN E.A.	"	"	"
"		BIRD N.H.T.	"	"	"
"		CREAM G.R.	"	"	"
"		BAKER G.E.S.	"	"	"
"		CHADWICK R.F.	"	"	"

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	Ex 19059	PRIDDIS K.W.	2/3 Fd Amb	17 7 41	R.M.O.
Captain	WX 3400	MACDONALD B.T.	A. Arch 5	26 7 40	Chaplain
Lieut	WX 6535	MONAG A.J.	24 A.I.T.B.	12 11 41	} 1/2 over WB.
"	WX 10562	DRAPER J.W.	"	18 11 41	
"	WX 4922	OSBORNE N.K.	"	17 12 41	
"	WX 6803	PATERSON C.W.R.	"	30 12 41	
"	WX 11087	THOMAS E.	"		

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
(Unit.)

28 Mar 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature of Commander.)

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

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

2/28 Aust Inf Bn (Unit). 28. 3. 19 42 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1	.	.
W.Os. Class II.	5	.	1
W.Os. Class III.	.	.	.
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	3	.	2
Staff Serjeants	.	.	.
Serjeants	32	1	.
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	.	.	.
Corporals <sup>7/Sgts</sup>	72	3	.
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	681	.	19
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>794</b>	* <b>4</b>	* <b>22</b>

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
Sgt	1 AAFC	Pte	1 AAOC (Shoemaker)
Sgt	1 AAFC	Cpl	1 9 Dis Postal Unit
Cpl	1 AAFC (Chiroprapist)	Pte	1 AA Ch. D (batman/dr.)
Pte	1 AAFC (Orderly)		
Cpl	1 AAOC (Armourer)		
Cpl	1 " (Fitter MV)		
Pltes	2 " " " "		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

2/28 Aust Inf Bde

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ... ..																				
"    " (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ... ..																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ... ..																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers ... ..																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties... ..																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ... ..								1	3	4			1	2				19	22	
TOTALS (to agree with Col- umns 3 and 4 of Part A).								1	3	4			1	2				19	22	

2/28 Aust Inf Bde  
Unit.

Date of Despatch 28 Mar 42

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Commander.

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

2/28 Aust Inf Bn,  
In the Field.  
29 MAR 42.

Copy No .....

STANDING ORDERS FOR SECURITY

SECURITY OFFICER

1. The Unit Security Officer is Lieut **G. Knull**.
2. Anything of a suspicious nature which comes to the notice of any member of the Bn should be reported to the Security Officer. The report should be made immediately without waiting for full details or confirmation. Any further details should be reported as they become known.
3. In the event of a person arousing suspicions all ranks must be warned not to allow their suspicions to be detected but casually to make arrangements to meet the person again in the meantime reporting the matter to the Security Officer.

IDENTIFICATION

4. All ranks of the A.I.F. will at all times carry pay-books (WP 5) as a means of identification.
5. It is the duty of all ranks to prevent the enemy obtaining information or making recesses of areas. All persons the identity of whom is not known should be interrogated. The enemy has used bogus uniforms in past operations. This trick may be repeated for the purpose of surprise attack or by individuals or small parties for espionage or sabotage. They also may use bogus uniforms to try to create confusion by issuing misleading orders. The wearer of a British uniform must therefore never be taken for granted.
6. Guards and sentries on duty at entrances to camps or military areas will examine the pay-books or military identity cards of everyone who is not personally known to them. Anyone without a pass or military identity card or pay-book must either be refused admittance or taken in under escort.

SECURITY OF INFORMATION

7. Secret information regarding future OPs or moves of units etc will not be mentioned except in the course of military duties. No one will be informed of plans until it is absolutely necessary for them to know in order to take action. The success of moves or OPs may depend on discretion in this respect and those who have access to secret information of any kind are responsible for ensuring that it is not unnecessarily divulged.
8. Indiscreet and defeatist talk by military personnel in public places has in the past provided the enemy with valuable information and encouragement. All ranks must be made to realise the dangers of discussing military matters in the hearing of civilians, press correspondents or persons in uniform who are not known to them. It is the duty of everyone to report to their superiors any indiscretions which they overhear. They will observe the strictest reticence when questioned on service matters by unknown persons. Only by strict observance of these rules can the activities of the enemy be frustrated. Any unduly inquisitive person will be reported immediately.

RUMOURS (see also paras 2 - 33).

9. Indiscreet statements by military personnel very quickly become rumours. Ops will not repeat rumours and more closely must this rule be adhered to when civilians are present.

Cont/11.

OFFICE SECURITY

10. Adequate measures will be taken to ensure the safe custody of secret documents. Failure to do so may have serious consequences. The danger of minor raids to obtain documents must be considered as well as mere pilfering. Field Stationery Boxes do not provide good security unless chained to some immovable object. In the field secret documents will be kept in the personal custody of a responsible person whenever possible.

11. Office buildings and rooms will be secured against intruders. Secret papers will not be left in unoccupied rooms or tents. Unauthorised persons will not be allowed access to such papers or to see chirograph of other maps showing military dispositions.

12. Secret documents will be carefully guarded during moves of units. All waste or unwanted papers, old carbons, tracings, stencil waste or type-writer backings will be burnt and crushed after burning by a responsible person. On no account will this task be delegated to civilian employees.

13. Care will be taken to ensure that secret correspondence is securely sealed and properly addressed.

14. Any loss or deficiency in secret documents will be reported immediately.

15. Personnel will not carry secret documents into battle.

16. Attention is drawn to the undesirability of collecting a large amount of unwanted papers which cannot be destroyed readily in an emergency.

CENSORSHIP

17. All letters will be handed unsealed by the writer to his immediate superior officer who will frank the letter and send it sealed to the unit censor. The writers correct military address will be written at the head of the letter but the writers unit will not be shown on a card.

18. Allusions to any of the following matters either in correspondence or conversation is forbidden :-

- (a) Strength, efficiency or morale of our forces or any unit.
- (b) Location, movement or projected movement of any naval, military or div units or detachments including the arrival or lack of reinforcements.
- (c) Armaments or equipment of any kind.
- (d) Distinguishing signs used for the identification of units or their transports.
- (e) Plans and forecasts of orders for further operations whether known or merely rumoured or surmised.
- (f) Communications such as the use, condition and probable extension of rds, rys or other transportation facilities bridging operations etc.
- (g) Position and description of billets, camps or bivouacs.
- (h) Casualties before official publication. A period of at least one month must elapse to allow for publication.
- (i) Effect of any action by the enemy such as any remark that might tend if published to encourage the enemy, to cause despondency in our own forces or people or to incite a feeling of hostility among the civil population either at home or abroad.
- (j) Criticism and statements calculated to bring into disrepute our forces or those of our Allies.

19.

It is forbidden :-

- (a) To use other than plain language in correspondence. Codes, Cyphers and shorthand will not be permitted.
- (b) To send to neutral or enemy countries, photographs, films or pictorial matter of any kind from whatever source they may have been obtained. (see also para 21)
- (c) To insert advertisements or letters in any publication inviting correspondence with any strangers or to enter into correspondence with any stranger in response to such advertisements or invitations.
- (d) To reply to circulars or other matters from enemy or neutral countries.
- (e) To publish anonymously or otherwise an opinion on any question of military policy or any other matter under consideration by any military authority.

20. Letters to PW (Full instructions on the method of writing to PW have already been issued). Writers must be careful to give no information likely to be of military, political or commercial value to the enemy and care must also be taken NOT to say anything (such as abuse against the enemy) likely to bring about retaliatory action against the recipient.

21. No photographs or pictures of any kind may be enclosed.

22. The writer may put his name and rank only in the letter but will not give his address or number.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

23. A register of cameras showing the rank, name number and Coy of all personnel in possession of cameras, will be kept by an officer in charge of Photography. He will ensure that all holders of cameras are conversant with the following regulations. Any body in possession of a camera will ensure that his name is registered.

24. Coys will send to the officer in charge of Photography on the first day of each month a return showing any alteration in the Register of cameras for that Coy. The name, number, rank and Coy of all persons acquiring, disposing of or transferring a camera since the last return will be shown in the return together with the details of the camera. A Nil return will be submitted in the event of there being no alterations necessary to the existing register.

25. When the Unit proceeds to any zone of active operations, all cameras with the exception of the Bn official camera will be withdrawn and forwarded for safe custody to the officer in charge of Base Depots.

26. Films will on no account be sent by personnel for developing and printing to any other than an approved and authorised dealer. List of authorised dealers will be published from time to time.

27. The following is a List of subjects it is forbidden to photograph :-

- (a) Aerial Views
- (b) Aerodromes
- (c) Aircraft
- (d) Armoured fighting vehicles
- (e) Arty weapons
- (f) Camps
- (g) Defences
- (h) Diagrams of weapons. Maps or plans.
- (i) Fortifications
- (j) Military operations
- (k) Ships of any kind
- (l) Signal equipment
- (m) All harbours and all Naval and military Oil installations.

Cont/28

## CONDUCT OF BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR

28. Conduct of British Prisoners of War, in the event of capture, British personnel will ONLY disclose their NAME, RANK and NUMBER. They will on no account state their unit or answer questions about operations in which they have taken part or conditions behind our lines. This information is important to the enemy who will endeavour to extract it by means of skilled interrogators, concealed listening devices or by the introduction of bogus prisoners who will engage in conversation on military matters. Attempts to give misleading information should NOT be made as this may do more harm than good.

## SECURITY OF PERSONNEL

29. Rumours and false reports - Experience has shown that the enemy is likely to spread rumours and false reports in order to try to cause confusion and lower morale. This may take the following forms.

30. False reports about local operations. False or exaggerated reports about parachute landings and the strength and whereabouts of the enemy may be circulated. Reports of this kind should always be carefully sifted and the originator interrogated as to the source of his information.

31. Similar rumours may be circulated in order to cause panic among the civilian population, thus possibly causing the roads to be blocked by refugees.

32. False reports of news from other theatres or war may be circulated, in addition to rumours of reverses, these may take the form of untrue stories of British victories with the object of lowering morale when the reports are found to be baseless.

33. Any civilians spreading rumours or reports thought to be unfounded should be reported at once.

34. Subversive Literature. The enemy spreads propaganda by newspapers, periodicals and pamphlets as well as other means. Should any subversive literature be discovered, copies will be seized at once and a full report rendered to the Security Officer.

35. Relations with Allies. Enemy propaganda often endeavours to cause dissension between our troops and those of our Allies. It is our duty to be on our guard against any such attempts and to prevent dissension by strifling them.

36. Relations with Local Population. In all countries in which troops are stationed there are organisations which will endeavour to further Axis propaganda by making us appear in a bad light in the eyes of the local population. It is our duty to prevent this by allowing no incident to occur which can be used by these organisations in furtherance of such propaganda.

37. Carrying of arms and Posting of Sentries. There have been recent incidents reported of armed holdups, attacks and other acts of lawlessness. The possibility of small parties or even persons singly being dropped by parachute, cannot be discounted.

38. In order to overcome the possibility of soldiers alone or parties of troops being without defense in the event of a raid or being unable to cope with enemy or fifth column activity when it is discovered, the following rules will apply except in the case of leave parties.

- (a) Troops will not move about singly on foot.
- (b) Not less than one fifth of a party of troops will carry arms and arm with a minimum number of two men armed.
- (c) Small parties bivouaced at night will post double sentries.
- (d) One weapon will be carried on each vehicle.
- (e) Special precautions may need to be taken in areas seldom visited by troops or thought to be unfriendly.
- (f) In main towns no special precautions are considered necessary.

Cont 39/.



39. The protective precautions to be taken by tps going on leave will be covered by special orders, but in the absence of such orders the following will apply :-

- (a) If the tps are travelling through areas occupied by our own tps and assistance can be readily obtained no precautions are necessary.
- (b) When leave parties have to travel through unoccupied areas or areas where there are none or only few British tps in occupations the provisions of Para 38 will apply.

SECURITY OF MATERIAL

40. Sentries. Sentries and picquets will do all in their power to protect the material they are guarding. They will halt and examine the passes or pay-books of all who are unknown to them.

41. In the event of a sentry seeing somebody entering a prohibited area or acting suspiciously he will call to that person to halt in English and in the local language if known. If this has no effect the command will be repeated. If not obeyed a warning shot will be fired. If still no notice is taken he will fire a shot intending to wound only. If the sentry can investigate the matter without leaving his post or call someone to investigate he will do so before firing.

42. Civilians inside Camp Area. No civilians are permitted to enter a camp area without a pass. Any civilian seen inside a camp area without the requisite pass will be escorted to the HQ. It is the duty of all ranks to ensure that this regulation is carried out and anyone seeing a civilian in a camp area will make inquiries to ascertain if the civilian is in possession of a pass.

43. Care of Pay-Books. The safe custody of a mans' pay-book is his personal responsibility. Sufficient precautions must be taken to prevent theft. In the event of loss or theft a report will be made immediately.

44. Security of Arms, Amn and Government Property. Each individual officer and soldier is personally responsible for the safeguarding of such arms, ammunition, equipment and Government property as may be issued to him, placed in his charge or belonging to him.

45. Coy Commanders will however make the best collective arrangements as are possible to relieve individual officers and O/Rs of the burden of personal responsibility.

46. Any orders for a collective safeguarding must lay down a drill for handing over so that there can be no doubt as to the individual responsibility for custody. Coy Commanders will see that there is no ambiguity in this regard.

Ammunition as personal issue to men and not on charge to Coy Commanders will be checked weekly and any deficiencies reported. The safeguarding of such ammunition is the personal responsibility of the individual.

47. Where possible Coy Commanders will ensure that rifles are collected each night and placed in a securely locked building, hut or tent and that a sentry is continuously on guard and where this is not possible see para 48.

48. Arms and ammunition will either be carried securely by the individual or securely locked in or to some immovable box or object. In the case of MGs, Brens, Mortars and all other arms not classified as rifles, the following rules will be observed :-

- (a) MGs, Brens, Mortars etc will be secured in locked boxes and placed in a locked store with barred windows (when possible).
- (b) When this is not possible the boxes will be locked and kept in a room or tent where there is always a sentry, storeman, or orderly on duty.
- (c) Failing (a) and (b) above the boxes will be locked and secured to an immovable object by means of a chain to be obtained from the CM. If this is not possible other suitable arrangements to be made.

Cont/d.

- (d) In tents, boxes will always be locked and secured to the tent pole. Where no boxes are available as in a, b, c and d., such weapons will be stored in a QM. <sup>tent over which there is a sentry posted</sup>
- (e) When arms or equipment are held collectively (e.g. in guard rooms, store or barrack rooms) they will be continually guarded by a sentry or storeman, or a room orderly.
- (f) In the field, by day when the arms of men are piled, an armed sentry will be posted and MGs, Brens etc will be locked in their boxes.
- (g) When sleeping in the field all ranks will have their arms and ammunition securely attached to them or a pile made or a series of piles and a sentry or a series of sentries posted accordingly. It is suggested where possible and practicable that a light be left in the vicinity. If no rope is available to attach arms possibly a sling may be used.
- (h) When rifles are not being used bolts and magazines will be withdrawn and kept in a safe place.
- (i) When working in the day time it is the responsibility of the man to take every care to safeguard his rifle and other equipment etc.
- (j) The responsibility of seeing that the tent, hut or other building, where rifles are placed is securely guarded is that of the Coy Commander in the case of Coys and the RSM (in the case of Bn HQ).
- (k) Coy Commanders will see that a sufficient number of picquets or guards are safeguarding buildings, lines etc where rifles and equipment are accommodated.
- (l) In the case of Guard personnel it is the responsibility of the Guard Commander to see that arms are securely guarded. It is suggested that rifles of personnel "off duty" be chained.
- (m) Should there be a loss of a rifle, MG, Bren, Mortar or other military equipment it is the duty of the individual to report it immediately to his Coy Commander and such Coy Commander will report the incident accordingly to Bn HQ immediately and within 12 hours the Adjutant will then report the incident to Bde and FSS.
- (n) Coy Commanders will be responsible to see that these orders are promulgated to all ranks under their command, (RSM to inform all N.C.Os. and O/Rs in Bn HQ). In the case of new or reinforcements personnel, immediately on entry into the Bn these orders will be promulgated by Coy Commanders, or RSM, to them.
- (o) When sentries or picquets are guarding rifles, arms equipment etc, they will be warned about their responsibility to be "alert" so that no weapons, arms etc are stolen.
- (p) Where possible sentries, picquets etc will be given torches to assist identification and to ensure extra vigilance. All sentries will be posted and supervised by an N.C.O. and will be told their full responsibility as a sentry or picquet.

49. Daily check of Arms and Ammunition. It is important that arms on issue to officers and all other ranks (including cooks etc) are checked daily. All personnel to whom arms are issued MUST know the registered number.

50. A daily certificate will be rendered to Bn that arms have been checked and are or are not "correct".

Cont/51.

51. Security of Vehicles. It is the responsibility of the driver to look after and safeguard his vehicle at all times on duty.

52. When vehicles are not in use keys will be removed by the driver and placed in safe custody.

53. It is the T/O's responsibility to see that a picquet is always placed on the car park. Should the T/O be away it is the next senior NCO's responsibility.

54. When vehicles are parked in Coy areas it is then the Coy Commanders responsibility to see that a Guard or Picquet is placed on duty.

55. When on duty it is always the drivers responsibility to see that his vehicle is safeguarded. It is also the drivers responsibility to see that the contents of the truck are suitably safeguarded unless some other guard or picquets has been arranged.

SECURITY OPERATIONS

56. The strictest secrecy will be observed in respect to proposed moves or operations. No secret documents or papers giving valuable information (e.g. letters with the soldiers unit on the envelope) will be carried into action.

SIGNAL SECURITY

57. Signals are liable to interception and therefore any message containing information of value to the enemy will be encyphered or encoded before it is sent by line or wireless.

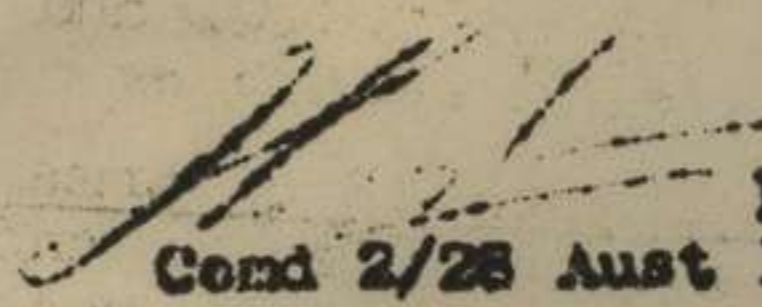
58. Telephone conversations are liable to be overheard by the enemy in action and by civilians when outside the sphere of operations. Greatest care must be taken not to give away information by indiscreet telephone conversations.

59. Security Personnel. In addition to unit security officers there are personnel of Field Security Wing Service attached to Forces operating in the field for the purpose of investigating and countering any activity of enemy agents who may be trying to obtain information or carry on fifth column activities against British Forces. They will cooperate with and assist units in maintaining security.

DISCIPLINE

60. These regulations will be read to all ranks who will be informed that any breach of them will render the offender liable to disciplinary action. The fact that a breach (e.g. in censorship regulations) is not discovered for some time will in no way effect the severity of the disciplinary action.

61. Distribution. Copies of these Orders will be distributed as under. Coy Commanders will ensure that when officers are transferred their copies of these Orders remain with the Coy, so that at all times, Coys have the copies distributed to them.

  
Lt-col.  
Comd 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

One copy for each Officer.

- Copy No 1 - 6 Bn HQ.
- 7 -11 A Coy.
- 12-16 B Coy.
- 17-21 C Coy.
- 22-26 D Coy.
- 27-35 HQ Coy.
- 36 R.S.M.
- 37-38 24 Aust Inf Bde.
- 39-43 Spares
- 44 File.
- 45-46 War Diary.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 317

*War Diary*  
7/20  
1942

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

CCMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. CHURCH PARADE - GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL 42

Anglican and Protestant Denominations

0900 hrs Bn HQ. Church Parade in YMCA Recreation Hut. Parade to be formed up on main roadway near Hut at 0850 hrs. Dress Service Dress, gaiters, belt and sidearms, Hats turned up.

1000 hrs 24 Bde

1130 hrs B Coy

1430 hrs A & C Coys combined at C Coy.

1800 hrs D Coy

Easter Even - Saturday (4 .APR)

0815 hrs D Coy Holy Communion

2. CLEANLINESS OF STAGING HUT

Personnel staging overnight in Sgts' mess are responsible for cleanliness of building and surroundings before returning to Coys. Orderly Officer will ensure that building is inspected daily prior to men returning to Coys.

3. BOUNDS

The Laundry in Village (HARET JLDIDE) is out of bounds after Retreat.

4. RIDING IN ARMY VEHICLES

All ranks are advised that when riding in the back of Army Vehicles, personnel will stand or sit on the floor and NOT sit on the sides of the vehicle.

Many accidents have occurred recently by people being swept off the vehicle by reason of portion of their body protruding beyond the sides of the vehicle.

The senior member of the party whether NCO or O/R will be responsible for the observance of the above instructions and contravention will be treated as an offence as from the promulgation of this Order.

All ranks are warned that any personnel injured by reason of contravention of this instruction will prejudice their rights to compensation should the injury sustained involve the future payment of compensation.

5. STACKING OF P.O.L. CONTAINERS

(a) All types of P.O.L. containers now in use in MIDEAST, except Jerricans and 40/44 - gall. barrels, if stacked upright retain water above the level of the orifice when exposed to rain or snow. There is, therefore, a risk of water infiltration into such containers in localities liable to rain and snowfall, when containers are stacked upright without cover and the caps or bungs do not provide a perfect seal.

(b) In order to obviate the risk of P.O.L. becoming contaminated by water when stacked exposed to rain and snow, the following procedure will be followed :-

(i) 5-gall. Lubricating Oil drums, 4-gall Petrol returnable round drums and square cans, with screw bungs, and 2-gall Rectangular Petrol and M.B.O. cans, will be stacked on their sides, with the cap or screw bung uppermost when the container is resting in a horizontal position.

(ii) All containers with screw bungs will have bungs tightened up at time of stacking. Cont/iii.

STANDARD R.O.C. CONTAINERS (CONT.)

(iii) Petrol, 4-gall. tins, light, and 5 (American gall.) Lubricating Oil tins both cased and naked will continue to be stacked upright at all times and in all localities.

(c) Petrol, 4-gall. tins, light, will be given first priority for all available cover.

(d) All containers will be loaded into vehicles in an upright position, with cap or screw bung uppermost in accordance with existing practice.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O.C. 209.)

6. AMMUNITION - DEFECTIVE - DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE

(a) Instances have recently occurred where valuable evidence of possible defects in ammunition has been lost through demolition of faulty rounds or neglect to retain material evidence for full expert investigation.

(b) When the behaviour of any ammunition is reported, the rounds or fragments concerned must be retained until definite disposal instructions are issued by R.O.C. Exception will only be made when the rounds are in a dangerous condition and it is impossible for them to be left in situ for examination. Package markings will be recorded in all cases.

(c) The above instructions do not apply to the disposal of "blinds", for which no report or complaint has been submitted. These will be dealt with in the normal manner.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O.C. 210.)

7. HYGIENE

It is noted that tents, huts and living quarters in Rear Hq's area are not cleaned sufficiently to pass an inspection.

On Thursday next all beds, sleeping gear and other gear will be removed. The interiors will be thoroughly cleaned and aired. All surplus rubbish will be burned. This general clean out will be carried out by everyone in the area from 0800 hrs to 1000 hrs on Thursday 2 April. 42.

PART 1B

1. INTER COY TRANSFER

WX5137 Pte Bain C.R.J. B Coy To HQ Coy 27 Mar 42.

2. APPOINTMENTS

WX4764 Pte McDowall W. HQ Coy Apptd L/Cpl 30 Mar 42.  
WX5247 " Payne A.C. " " " "

3. ATTACHEMENT

WX11078 Lieut Cleutman W.T.G. C Coy Att. from 24 A.I.T.Bn. 30 Mar 42.

4. DETENTION

WX7056 Pte Barnett H.L. HQ Coy Marched out to Fd Punishment Centre - Beirut. 30 Mar 42.

5. PROMOTIONS

WX5292 A/Cpl ROWE J.W. A Coy Rank confirmed 30 Mar 42.  
WX5261 " Hill H.B. B Coy do.  
WX5345 A/Sgt Dodds G.N. HQ Coy do.  
WX7572 " Macdonald J.H.R. HQ Coy do.

6. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM R LIST

WX8624 Pte Arnold T.C. A Coy 30 Mar 42.  
WX6009 " Board F.G. B Coy "  
WX7549 " Bidwell E.W. HQ " "  
WX3693 " Colvin R. " "  
WX5388 " French W.G. D Coy "  
WX5027 " Lennox F.W.T. " (re-posted to C Coy).  
WX6236 WO ii Leggo R.L. C Coy "  
WX6194 Pte Roach H. A Coy "  
WX4481 " Winter I.C. HQ Coy "

**7. TRADE GROUPING**

WA4437	Pte	Lee R.J.	H. Coy	App'd TG iii (Tech - storeman). 27 Mar 42.
WB5137	"	Erin C.R.J.	"	App'd TG ii (Cook). 27 Mar 42.
WB5451	"	Gilbert H.R.	"	App'd TG iii (Driver Tech). 8 Mar 42.
WKL3024	"	Brown C.	"	do.
WKL3242	"	Fabry H.R.	"	do.
WKS631	"	Goggin W.R.T.	"	do.

**8. TRANSFERS OUT**

WKL2090	Cpl	Hampson W.	D Coy	To 9 Aust Div Comm Pl. 31 Mar 42
WKL7965	Pte	Morgan W.R.	H. Coy	do.
WKL1966	"	Trenberth W.F.	D Coy	To 2/7 Aust Fd Regt. 31 Mar 42.

**PART 1A CONT.**

**8. DIGGS**

singlets;

Personnel on mass parades will not appear with bared torso, or/ shirts will be worn.

**DISTRIBUTION**

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.C., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 C.H., 2/4 Plt, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Ech,  
 Notice bd, File,  
 Coys - Hq, A, B, C & D (2 each), 10 Pl (1).  
 Security Guard (2).

Capt.  
 Adj 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 316

*War Diary*

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. MESS TINS

Coy Comds will arrange for an inspection of mess tins each week to ensure that they are in a clean and serviceable condition. Certificate to this effect will be submitted to Bn Hq by 1200 hrs each Wednesday.

2. GAMBLING IN PUBLIC OR SEMI-PUBLIC PLACES

Members of the A.I.F., are forbidden to congregate in public or semi-public places for the purpose of gambling, either as participants or spectators. Without limiting the definition of gambling, this Order includes in its scope "two-up" and "crown and anchor".

Infringements of this Order will be dealt with under section 40 of the Army Act, offenders being charged with conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

(Ref A.I.F. Order no 1037).

PART 1B

1. BATTLE CASUALTY

WX5299	Pte Warburton C.A.	B Coy	Officially reported PW 8/11/41. Place of detention - Concentration Camp - BENGHAZI.
WX6072	" Pascarl A.A.	B "	Wounded in action (bullet wound in head). Prior to being captured.

2. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX9636	Pte Pettit K.W.	C Coy	18 Mar 42.
WX5954	L/Cpl Drakes M.B.	"	26 Mar 42.
WX5067	Pte Williams G.	A Coy	25 Mar 42.

3. PROMOTIONS

VX40200	Major Loughrey J.	Bn Hq	To be T/Lt-col 7 Mar 42. (AIF List No 72).
WX3401	Lieut Carlton W.A.	A Coy	To be T/Capt & remains seconded 16 Mar 42. (AIF List No 72).

4. PUNISHMENTS

WX7056	Pte Barnett H.E.	HQ Coy	A.M.L. 7 days Field Punishment, Forf 7 days pay also auto forf 1 days pay. 28 Mar 42.
WX7056	" Barnett H.E.	"	Disobeyed a lawful command 14 days Field Punishment & Forf 14 days pay. 28 Mar 42.
WX4751	" Foott H.J.	"	Disobeyed a lawful command. Fined £1. 28 Mar 42.

5. REJOINED UNIT

WX8815 Pte Meir E.E. B Coy From 2/3 Aust Fd Bde. 25 Mar 42.

6. TRANSFERRED OUT

WX7293	Pte Simpson F.H.	HQ Coy	To 9 Aust Div Sigs. ("K" Sec att 24 Bde) 27 Mar 42.
WX3346	Lt-col Lloyd J.E.	Bn Hq	Apptd to command 16 Aust Inf Bde. 7 Mar 42. (AIF List No 72).
WX6408	Capt Gillespie A.B.		Ceases to be seconded & transfd to 2/32 Bn 11 Mar 42. (AIF List No 73).

P.T.O.

**7. SCHOOLS AND COURSES**

WX3555	Sgt Maunsell J.F.S.	D Coy	METS No 7 Junior Leaders Course
			Qualified.
WX4667	L/Sgt Jewell A.	C "	do.

**DISTRIBUTION**

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Lich,  
 Notice bd, File,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D (2 each), 10 Pl (1).  
 Security Guard (2).

*Handwritten signature*  
 Capt.  
 Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.



2/28 AUST INF BN

171

HARET JEDIDE (SYRIA)

APR 42

DESCRIPTIVE REVIEW

ACTIVITIES AT TOBRUK  
Copies of stories submitted by members of Bn concerning phases of activities at TOBRUK app.

2/28 AUST INF BN  
APR 42

APRIL  
MONTH  
1942.  
YEAR

17. MAY 1942

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

2/28 BN.

# WAR DIARY

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

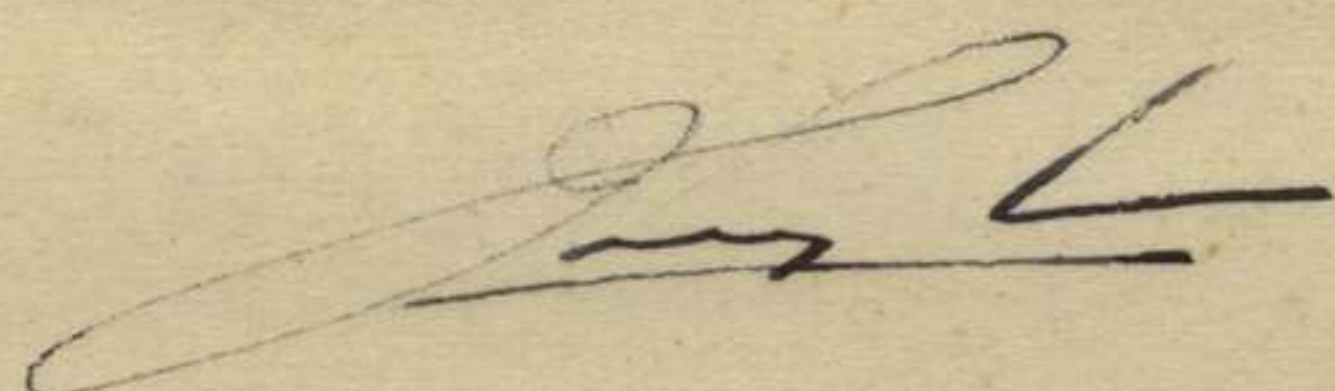
PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES
<u>HARET</u> <u>JEDIDE,</u> <u>SYRIA.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>		
	1.	Allocation of classification range.	1.
	4.	R/O 318.	2.
	4.	Field Return (Off & O/Rs).	3.
		Operation Instruction - Bn Exercise with Animal Tpt	4.
	7.	R/O 319.	5.
	9.	A successful exercise prepared by 24 Aust Inf Bde was conducted on 6/8 Apr in which Mule Tpt was used for the first time. The exercise which included an opposed river crossing, dawn and daylight attacks on occupied posns, was a particularly strenuous one - the men carrying hard rations and having, the use of one blanket only. The Mule Tpt which was under Coy control worked satis- factorily.	
	11.	Field Return (Off & O/Rs).	6.
		R/O 320.	7.
	14.	R/O 321.	8.
	15.	Copies of stories submitted by members of the Bn concerning various phases of activities at Tobruk.	9.
	16.	R/O 322.	10.
	18.	Field Return (Off & O/Rs). Exercise conducted by 3 Pl.	11.
			12.
	20.	R/O 323.	13.
	21.	R/O 324.	14.
	25.	R/O 325.	15.
	Field Return (Off & O/Rs).	16.	
29.	R/O 326.	17.	

APRIL. MONTH  
1942. YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

2/28 BN  
**WAR DIARY**

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES
<u>HARET</u> <u>JEDIDE,</u> <u>SYRIA.</u>		<p>The month has been a particularly quiet one. Defensive works are slowly approaching completion and all Coys have been concentrating on this work during the month. The weather has been steadily getting warmer as summer approaches but the general health of the unit has remained good.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....Lt-col. Comd 2/28 Aust Inf Bn. (J. LOUGHREY).</p>	

War Diary

42/2.

HQ, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn,  
In the Field.  
1 APR 42.

1. The following allocation of range is made for 4/5  
April 42.

<u>EL ABUE</u>		-	<u>8 TARGETS</u>
4 Mar		-	B Coy
5 Mar		-	A Coy 40 - C Coy 40

U/comm Lieut HICKEY.

2. Coys will be responsible for safety precautions as previously issued.
3. Practices as per Appx issued.
4. A Coy and C Coy will co-operate ref provision of Butt Party, coaches etc.
5. Personnel who have previously registered low scores but whose rifles have recently been zeroed will be practised.
6. Weapons. R.S.M. will arrange for withdrawal of L.M.Gs. by 3 Mar and will ensure they are available at Range by 0830 hrs on each firing day.
7. Ann. Coys will use practise S.A.A. already issued.
8. Other stores. R.S.M. will arrange for delivery of phone, targets, paste, paper at Range by 0830 hrs daily.
9. Records. O.C. range will submit report on firing similar to previous instructions within two days of firing.
10. Rations. Coy arrangements.
11. Tpt. T.O. to arrange for sufficient tpt for above personnel to report Coy areas 0800 hrs 4 and 5 April respectively.

DISTRIBUTION

A, B & C Coys (2 each),  
S.M., T.O., R.S.M., File (2).

*Leeman Lamb* Capt.  
Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

*2 Park Diary*

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 318

BY LT-COL. J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. FENCE PERIMETER AT REAR H.Q.

Above fence has been erected as protection against thieving. Disciplinary action will be taken against any persons destroying the fence by cutting the wire or flattening same by walking over it.

2. CHURCH SERVICE SUNDAY 5 APRIL 42

Anglican and Protestant Denominations

0730 hrs Holy Communion. YMCA Recreation Hut Ba HQ Area.

R.C.:

1030 hrs Mass in village Church at 24 Bde HQ.

PART 1B

1. INTER COY TRANSFER

WX7605 Pte PARK S.W.E. HQ Coy To D Coy 3 Apr 42.

2. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX11939 Pte Stouse C.R. D Coy 25 Mar 42.  
WX7056 " Barnett H.B. HQ Coy 1 Apr 42.

3. PROMOTIONS.

WX6891 A/WO ii Sefton W.H.A. C Coy. Rank Confirmed 1 Apr 42.  
(24 Bde auth 18/79/97).  
WX6879 Sgt Potter A.K. B Coy To be A/WO ii 1 Apr 42.  
(24 Bde auth 18/30/96).

4. PUNISHMENTS

WX3631 Pte McGuire A.G. HQ Coy Failed to appear on Parade.  
Admonished 30 Mar 42.  
WX5042 " Knight G.S. " do.  
WX5083 " Bevan D.G.B. " do. 31 Mar 42.  
WX6058 " Woosnam N.C. " do.  
WX10651 " Brown W.H. A Coy When ordered to sleep in Guard House failed to do so. 3  
Fined £1. 31 Mar 42.  
WX9983 " Snell W.L.T. " do.  
WX7859 " Arnold T. " do.  
WX9165 " Buchanan G. HQ Coy do.  
WX10673 " Baker S.F. A Coy AML Fined £3. Auto forf 1 days pay 31 Mar 42.  
WX9965 " Willis J.W. " AML Fined £5 31 Mar 42.  
WX4978 " Hopewell A.J. HQ Coy AML Fined £3 Forf 1 days pay 2 Apr 42.

5. REJOINED UNIT

WX7175 Cpl Clifton G.G. Bn HQ From HQ 9 Aust Div 31 Mar 42.  
(Ceases to be detached).  
WX7249 L/Sgt Plunkett M. D Coy From Ed Punishment Centre BEIRUT  
3 Apr 42.  
(Ceases to be detached).

6. REVERSION

WX4983 A/Cpl Lawrence J.R. B Coy reverts to L/Cpl 3 Apr 42.

P.T.O.

- 7. TRAIL GROUPING  
 19626 Pte Howard R.C. Bn HQ, Appnt <sup>iii</sup> TC (Clerk) 1 Mar 42,
- 8. TRANSFER IN  
 SX/179 Pte Reid A.J. HQ Coy From 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. 1 Apr 42

PART 1A (CONT)

3. SUMMER DRESS

Summer dress may now be worn.  
 Instructions as per Bn R/O 314 (2) 21 Mar 42 will be adhered to.  
All ranks will change into long trousers daily before evening mess pdes.  
 O/Officers will ensure that this instruction is rigidly enforced and failure to observe will incur disciplinary action.  
 Above regulation is necessary because of high incidence of malaria.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 M/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Post<sup>l</sup> Cpl,  
 Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Bch,  
 Notice bd, File, Guard Comr,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C, & D (2 each), 10 Pl (1).

*James Land* Capt.  
 Majt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

NOTICE

No 4 (Cypriot) Pack Transport Coy RASC has extended an invitation to all ranks of 2/28 Aust Inf Bn to attend the following events to be held at their Coy HQ commencing at 1430 hrs :-

Sunday 5 Apr 42: Gymkhana.  
 Wednesday 8 Apr 42: Horse and Mule Show.

Leave passes will be necessary.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)*

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
* *			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	6		2
Lieutenants ... <i>7 Capts incl Q.M.</i>	2		
2nd Lieutenants ...	21	2	
Quartermasters ...			
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>WT</i> 11078	<i>Lieut Blountman</i>	<i>24 AIT. Bn</i>	<i>30.3.42</i>	<i>Attached for rotations &amp; duty (of over WE.)</i>

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj (T/lt-col)		Loughrey J	2/28 Bn	Yes	CO
Maj		Cole JG	"	No	9 Army Tank
		Brennan JG	"	Yes	A 2 1/2
		Burntime MA	"	"	A/O.C. HQ Coy
Capt		Thompson JB	"	"	OC. A Coy
		Simpson P	"	"	OC. C Coy
		Northwood DR	"	"	OC. A Coy
		Stanhope JA	"	"	A/O.C. B Coy
		Newbery JC	"	No	WETS
		Taylor RLF	"	Yes	2 1/2 C Coy
Lieut		Keall G	"	"	1.0
(T/capt)		Lamb L	"	"	Adjlt
		Masel P	"	"	Pl Comdr
		Freedman JG	"	"	"
		Waring ET	"	No	Det to 116 AME Unit
(T/capt)		Yates GH	"	Yes	QM
		Ellis CC	"	"	Pl Comdr
		Head JM	"	"	"
		Hall RJ	"	"	A 2 1/2 B Coy
		Norris JHC	"	"	Pl Comdr (TO)
		Gamble GEF	"	"	A 2 1/2 A Coy
		Walker SAJ	"	"	Pl Comdr
		Robertson HD	"	"	"
		Fisher M	"	"	"
		Stewart RS	"	"	A 2 1/2 D Coy
		Parry GFW	"	"	Pl Comdr
		Piper JN	"	"	"
		Lambert EC	"	"	"
		Eastman EA	"	"	"
		Bird UNT	"	"	"
		Graham ER	"	"	"
		Baker GEF	"	"	"
		Chadwick RF	"	"	"

**(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.**

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	QX 19059	Piddis JW	2/3 FA Amb	17.7.41	AMO
Chaplain	WX 3409	Mason BT	1 RR Ch D.	26.7.40	Chaplain
Lieut	WX 6525	Woods SA	24 AIF Bn	12.11.41	} o/o over W8 at school
	WX 10518	Dwyer JW	"	18.11.41	
	WX 4922	Crabtree JG	"	17.12.41	
	WX 6805	Palmer CWA	"	30.12.41	
	WX 11087	Thomas S	"	30.12.41	
	WX 11078	Houtman WTG	"	30.12.41	

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
(Unit.)

4 Apr 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

  
(Signature of Commander.)  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)



**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit). *4 Apr 42* (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	<i>1</i>	<i>1 (at)</i>	<i>1</i>
W.Os. Class II.	<i>7</i>	<i>(OCTU)</i>	<i>1</i>
W.Os. Class III.	<i>.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>.</i>
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>
Staff Serjeants	<i>.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>.</i>
Serjeants	<i>31</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>.</i>
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	<i>.</i>	<i>(1 Sgt)</i>	<i>.</i>
Corporals <i>&amp; 2 Sgts</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>1 (at OCTU)</i>	<i>.</i>
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	<i>686</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>14</i>
TOTALS	<i>798</i>	<i>* 2</i>	<i>* 16</i>

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
<i>Sgt</i>	<i>1 AAAC</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>1 AAOC (Shoemaker)</i>
<i>Sgt</i>	<i>1 AAAC</i>	<i>Cpl</i>	<i>1 9 Div Postal unit</i>
<i>Cpl</i>	<i>1 AAAC (Chiropodist)</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>1 AAChD (batman)</i>
<i>Pte</i>	<i>1 AAAC (Orderly)</i>		
<i>Cpl</i>	<i>1 AAOC (Armourer)</i>		
<i>Cpl</i>	<i>1 " (Fitter MV)</i>		
<i>Ptes</i>	<i>2 " " "</i>		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

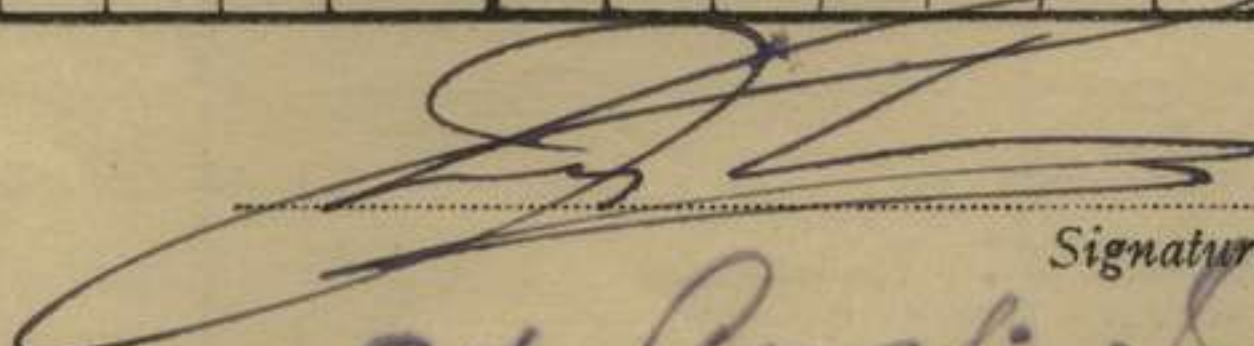
2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.						REMARKS.				
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners																				
Clerks																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)																				
„ „ (Wheeled)																				
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers...																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties...																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel		1						1	2				2					14	16	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).	1						1		2				2					14	16	

2/28 Aust. Inf Bn  
Unit.

Date of Despatch 4 Apr 42

  
Signature of Commander.  
24 Aust. Inf Bde  
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

2/28 AUST INF BN  
OPERATION INSTRUCTION  
BN EXERCISE WITH ANIMAL TRANSPORT

TRIPOLI AREA 6/8 APR 42

Ref Map  
TRIPOLI Special Sheet 1/25000

1. OBJECT

To practice the operation of a Bn in difficult country using Mule Tpt only. The exercise is set to test present stage of Bn tng with particular ref to battle procedure in attack and in opposed river crossing.

2. OUTLINE OF SCHEME

The phases will cover:-

- (a) Opposed river crossing and establishment of a bridgehead.
- (b) Dawn attack and exploitation.
- (c) Daylight attack.
- (d) Night patrols.
- (e) Dawn attack and exploitation.

Mules will be used throughout the exercise for all services.

3. UMPIRES

(a) The exercise will be directed by HQ 24 AUST INF BDE who will provide the following staff :-

- Director
- Chief Umpire
- Umpires for Bn HQ.
- Umpires for HQ Coy.
- "B" Ech and Bn L of C.

(b) Enemy will be recognised by wearing felt hats.

(c) DS will be distinguished by white Brassards and hats and their vehs will bear a 2' white flag.

4. TPS TO BE EXERCISED

- 2/28 Bn less 4 Pl and 6 Pl
- 58 Bty 2/8 Fd Regt
- Det 3 A/Tk Regt
- Det K Sec 9 Div Sigs
- One Pl 2/2 MG Bn
- One Tp 10 Mule Coy RIASC
- One Tp 12 Mule Coy RIASC
- One Sec 2/3 Fd Amb.

5. ASSEMBLY AREA PRIOR TO EXERCISE AND TIME

A Coy 2/28 Bn	17582768	1100 hrs	6 Apr 42.
B Coy "	" 17512772	1100 "	" " " "
C Coy "	" 17532767	1100 "	" " " "
D Coy "	" 17592767	1100 "	" " " "
Supporting Arms - area	17502768	1500 hrs	6 Apr 42
" " "	" 17542769	1800 hrs	5 " "

6. TIME AND PLACE FOR EXERCISE TO COMMENCE

To be advised.

7. DRESS

Battle Order with W/bottles filled, shirts, sweater, trousers KWD, gaiters.

Note : Respirators and capes A/Gas will not be carried.  
Groundsheets rolled in haversack.

8. G/COATS AND BLANKETS

G/Coats and one blanket per man will be carried by A ECH Mule Tpt.

9. RATIONS

- (a) Each man will carry hard rations for 4 meals on the man.
- (b) Hot meals will be provided under Bn arrangements at assembly area at 1200 hrs and 1700 hrs 6 Apr 42. Coy 2 i/cs and CQMSs will report Bn 2 i/c at 17562769 on arrival at assembly area.
- (c) Hot tea will be provided under Bn arrangements at conclusion of exercise 8 Mar 42. (strength 450)
- (d) A hot meal will be provided under Bn arrangements for D Coy at conclusion of exercise. (strength 110)

10. WATER

Coys will draw sufficient water containers (filled) from Bn 2 i/c at assembly area to provide two refills for W/bottles during exercise.

11. MULE TPT

Mules will be allocated at assembly area at 1100 hrs 6 Apr 42 as per Appx "A" .

12. TRANSPORT

T/O will arrange :-

- (a) Tpt to convey "D" Coy plus 10 Pl (strength 110) to assembly area. To report "D" Coy dump 1000 hrs 6 Apr 42.
- (b) Tpt to convey Coys back to their respective areas at conclusion of exercise (strength 450)  
To report 17712868 1000 hrs 8 Apr 42.

13. SECURITY

- (a) Coys will ensure that sufficient personnel are detailed to remain for Camp Security duties during exercise.
- (b) All Ball Amn will be withdrawn from tps taking part in exercise except 10 rds SAA to be carried for Security duties by each Sec Comd.
- (c) An arms inspection will be held prior to commencement of exercise.

*Leuson Lamb* Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

HQ Coy (4) A, B, C, D, Coys (2 each)  
Bn 2 i/c, IO, QM, RMO, T/O, RSM,  
58 Bty 2/8 Fd Regt, 3 A/Tk Regt,  
2/2 MG Bn, 2/3 Fd Amb, 24 Aust Inf Bde (2)  
File, War Diary (2) Spare (3)

APPENDIX "A"

ALLOCATION OF MULE TRANSPORT

	<u>Sub Unit</u>	<u>Mules</u>
<u>Bn HQ.</u>	CO, Adjnt	2
	Office and I Sec gear	2
	RAP	3
<u>HQ Coy</u>	Coy HQ	1
	1 Pl	8
	2 Pl	6
	3 Pl	15
	6 Pl (Water only)	15
<u>A Coy</u>		31
<u>B Coy</u>		31
<u>C Coy</u>		31
<u>D Coy</u>		31
<u>58 Bty 2/8 Fd Regt</u>		16
<u>Det 3 A/Tk Regt</u>		1
<u>Det K Sec 9 Div Sigs</u>		5
<u>One Pl 2/2 MG Bn</u>		1
<u>One Sec 2/3 Fd Amb</u>		6
		<u>205</u>

Note: (1) Mules as allocated will remain with Coys throughout exercise except where necessary for them to be withdrawn by night for fodder and water.

(2) Coys will be responsible for care of mules by off-loading mule packs when halted for any lengthy period.

AMN Coys will load 1st line amm on mules according to mule loading tables previously issued. Amn for loading will be available at assembly area and will be issued by RSM as available.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O. NO 1587

HQ. 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
7 APRIL 42 (621 DAY)

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1.A  
No 319

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COLD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. SHOWERS

It has been noticed that parties have attended shower parades without officers or NCOs in charge. Attention is drawn to RO 313 19 Mar 42.

(Ref 9 Aust Div RO No 219)

2. ACCOMMODATION

A return is required to reach this HQ by 1200 hrs 10 Apr 42 showing the numbers of troops accommodated as under.

- (a) In Barracks and Hutments.
- (b) In standing camps and scale "A" tentage.

3. ARMS - RETENTION OF NON SERVICE TYPES

1. All members of AIF are forbidden to have any arms, weapons or any other than WD Service types unless they are in possession of a certificate signed by the CO of the unit, authorising the retention of such weapons.

2. COs are authorised to sign such certificates only when :-

- (i) exigencies of the service require that the member should be armed with a weapon not of service type,
- (ii) the weapon is personal property obtained from a legitimate source, or,
- (iii) is unserviceable and its only value is as a souvenir.

3. In the case of sub para (ii) these arms are to be held only in addition to, and not in lieu of, WD issue.

4. All ranks will hand in all arms and weapons for which a certificate is not granted. Units will be responsible for returning these to nearest Ordnance Depot.

5. This order will be repeated in all unit orders and read on parade twice monthly.

6. The certificate will be in the following form:-

No	Rank	Name	Unit.
----	------	------	-------

Is authorised to be in possession of	{	Private property
(full description of weapon) as	{	A souvenir
	{	A weapon

4. COURT OF INQUIRY

A Court of Inquiry consisting of the undermentioned officers will assemble at 2/43 Aust Inf Bn at 0900 hrs on Friday 10 Apr 42 and thereafter at such times and places as the President may determine to investigate and report on the accident in which 2 natives were injured by a defective mortar bomb exploding.

The report of the Court will include :-

- (i) Conditions under which firing was conducted.
- (ii) Reasons for bomb not exploding when fired.
- (iii) Attempts made to find unexploded bomb.

#### 4. COURT OF INQUIRY (cont)

All evidence will be taken on oath and completed proceedings will be forwarded to HQ, 24 AUST INF BDE not later than 14 Apr 42.

#### PRESIDENT

Maj. M.A. BUNTINE

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

#### MEMBERS

Capt W.G. STARGATT

2/32 Aust Inf Bn.

Capt A.L.F. TAYLOR

2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

(ref 24 Aust Inf Bde RO 128)

#### PART 1 B

#### 1. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX6084	Pte	Voak	D.A.J.	"D"	Coy	25	Mar	42
WX13672	"	Toote	H.J.	"C"	"	29	"	"
WX10645	"	Cumpstey	H.	"D"	"	31	"	"
WX6025	"	Meldrum	H.W.	"D"	"	6	Apr	"
WX9435	"	Morris	A.H.	"B"	"	4	"	"

#### 2. PUNISHMENTS

Pte

WX6371	McCarthy	F.J.	"D"	Coy	Unfit for duty by reason of previous indulgence in alcoholic stimulants. Fined £1 5 Apr 42
WX6561	" Dalgleish	W.A.	"D"	"	1. Found in ZGHORTA a place out of bounds. 2. Resisting an escort. Fined £2 5 Apr 42
WX4992	" Compassi	J.	"D"	"	Loss of paybook through neglect Fined £1 5 Apr 42
WX4946	" Harris	H.	"D"	"	Unfit for duty by reason of previous indulgence in alcoholic stimulants. Fined £2 5 Apr 42.

#### 3. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME <sup>REMOVED</sup> RETURNED FROM X LIST

WX11939 Pte Stouse C.R. "D" Coy 4 Apr 42

#### 4. TRANSFERS OUT

WX4751 Pte Foott H.J. "HQ" Coy To 2/1 Aust A. Fd. Wkshop 6 Apr 42

#### DISTRIBUTION

CO, 2i/c. RMO, RSM, I/O, T/O,  
QM, 24 Bde, Amenities Offr, War Diary (2)  
Postal Cpl, Offrs Mess, Sgts Mess, Band Sgt,  
2 Ech, Notice Bd, File, Guard Comdr,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C, & D, 10 Pl (2 each)

*P. M. M. M.*  
Adj. Lt  
Adj. Capt.  
Adj. Lt  
Adj. Capt.  
Adj. Lt  
Adj. Capt.  
Adj. Lt  
Adj. Capt.  
Adj. Lt  
Adj. Capt.

#### NOTICES

Lost between HAIFA and BEIRUT one pack (straps, greatcoat, leather jerkin, prismatic compass and compass pouch WE). If found to be handed in to Bn HQ for return to 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit.)

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ... ..	1	.	.
Majors ... ..	3	.	.
Captains ... ..	6 } 2 } <i>7 Capts incl QM.</i>	.	2
Lieutenants ... ..	21	2	
2nd Lieutenants ... ..			
Quartermasters ... ..			
District Officers ... ..			
Totals ... ..	33	2	2

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>W46889</i>	<i>Lieut Keogh</i>	<i>24 A.I.T. Bn</i>	<i>10.4.42</i>	<i>Attached for rationing + duty (of over W.E.)</i>

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>W23378</i>	<i>Major Buntine</i>	<i>Ma 2/28 Bn</i>	<i>11.4.42</i>	<i>To METS No 14 Senior off Course</i>

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

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



PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj	(T/Lt.-col)	Loughrey JJO	2/28 Bn	Yes	CO
"		Cox JJO	"	"	2 i/c
"		Brennan JG	"	"	OC HQ Coy
"		Buntine ina	"	No	METS.
Capt.		Thompson JB	"	Yes	OC D. Coy
"		Simpson B	"	"	C Coy
"		Northwood VR	"	"	A Coy
"		Stenhouse TR	"	"	A/O.C. B Coy
"		Hewbery JC	"	No	METS
"		Taylor ALI	"	Yes	2 i/c C Coy
Lieut.		Keall G	"	"	1.0
"	T/capt	Lamb L	"	"	Adjt.
"		Marel P	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"		Freedman JG	"	"	"
"		Waring JG	"	No	Det to the 6 AMCU
"	T/capt	Yates SN	"	Yes	QM
"		Ellis CC	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"		Head J.M.	"	"	"
"		Harris JIC	"	"	(TO)
"		Gamble HF	"	"	A 2 i/c A Coy
"		Walker SAT	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"		Robertson T.P.	"	"	"
"		Hickey M	"	"	"
"		Stewart RS	"	"	A 2 i/c D Coy
"		Parry GLW	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"		Piper J.W.	"	"	"
"		Harrod EC	"	"	"
"		Eastman EA	"	"	"
"		Bird NHT	"	"	"
"		Gream GR	"	"	"
"		Baker GET	"	"	"
"		Bradwick RF	"	"	"

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
QX 19059	Capt.	Priddis KW	2/3 Fd Amb	17.7.41	RMO
WX 3409	Chaplain	Macdonald BT	AACHD	26.7.40	Chaplain
WX 6523	Lieut.	Morris AD	24 A.I.T.B	12.11.41	} o/o over w. E.
WX 10568	"	Dapper J.W.	"	12.11.41	
WX 4922	"	Aborne NK	"	18.11.41	
WX 6805	"	Paperson CWR	"	17.12.41	
WX 11087	"	Thomas E	"	30.12.41	
WX 11078	"	Cloutman WTC	"	30.3.42	School
WX 6887	"	Keogh JJO	"	10.4.42	

2/28 Aust. Inf Bn (Unit.)  
11 Apr 42 (Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander.)  
24 Aust. Inf Bde (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

2/28 Aust Inf Div (Unit) 11 Apr 1942 (Date)

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.	7	1 (1 Oct U)	
W.Os. Class III.	.		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	4		1
Staff Serjeants	.		.
Serjeants	31		.
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	.		.
Corporals + 21 Sqts	70	1 (1 Sgt at OCTU)	.
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	689		11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>802</b>	* <b>2</b>	* <b>12</b>

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.		Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	
Sgt	1	AAMC	Pte	1	AAOC (Sherman)
Sgt	1	AAPC	bpl	1	9 Div Postal Unit
bpl	1	AAMC (Hutchinson)	Pte	1	AA BLD (Balfour)
Pte	1	AAMC (Onderlip)			
bpl	1	AAOC (Armour)			
bpl	1	" (Butter MX)			
Ptes	2	" " "			

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ... ..																				
"    " (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ... ..																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ... ..																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers ... ..																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties... ..																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ... ..		1						1	2				1					11	12	
TOTALS (to agree with Col- umns 3 and 4 of Part A).		1						1	2				1					11	12	

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

Date of Despatch 11 Apr 42

*[Signature]* W. bal.  
Signature of Commander.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O. NO 1587

HQ. 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
11 APRIL 42 (625 DAY)

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 320

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. CHURCH SERVICES - SUNDAY 12 APR 42.

Anglican and Protestant Denominations

0730 hrs Holy Communion, YMCA Recreation Hut, Bn HQ Area.

0900 hrs Church Parade in YMCA Recreation Hut, Bn HQ Area. Parade to be formed up on main roadway near hut at 0850 hrs.

Dress : Service Dress, caiters, belt and sidearms, hats turned up.

R.C.

1030 hrs. Mass in village church at 24 Bde HQ.

PART 1 B

1. INTER COY TRANSFERS

WX7249 L/Sgt Plunkett M. D Coy to Bn HQ 9 Apr 42.  
WX6236 WOii Leggo R.L. C Coy to D Coy 10 Apr 42.

2. ATTACHMENTS

WX6887 Lieut J.D. Keogh Attached from 24 AITB 10 Apr 42.

3. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX5304 Pte Haynes J.B. C Coy 5 Apr 42  
WX4607 " Page A.H. HQ Coy 2 Apr 42

4. PROMOTION

Lieut T.I. Gellibrand. To be temporary Capt and to remain  
Seconded 17 Mar 42 vide AIF List No 74.

5. PUNISHMENT

WX6905 Pte Fogg A.E. D Coy AWL Fined £3 automatic forfeiture  
2 days pay 10 Apr 42.

6. REJOINED UNIT

WX4603 L/Cpl Browning W. HQ Coy from HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde  
9 Apr 42  
WX7185 Pte Wilson W.J. " " " " " " " "

7. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST

WX7125 S/Sgt Anderson S.G. A Coy 10 Apr 42  
WX7579 Pte Arnold L.D. C " " " "  
WX3351 " Derrington F.N. HQ " " " "  
WX5378 " Gardiner R.J. " " " "  
WX7013 " Miller H.K. D Coy " " " "  
WX7406 " Newbey E.W. D " " " " "  
WX5038 " Stiles A.M. D " " " " "  
WX4845 " Williams E.M. HQ " " " " "  
WX4607 " Page A.H. HQ " " " " "

3. SCHOOLS AND COURSES

WX4442 A/Cpl Carr S. HQ Coy. Inf Base Depot No 8  
3" Mortar Course 16 Mar 42  
4 Apr 42 Qualified.  
WX5071 Pte Fisher K.R. " " " " " " " "

9. REVERSIONS

WX 13593	A/Cpl	Maunsell	S.G.E. D Coy	Reverts to Pte on joining
WX12404	A/Cpl	Thompson	B.C. HQ	Unit from Reinf. 10 Apr 42.

10. TRANSFER IN

WX13593	A/Cpl	Maunsell	S.G.E. D Coy	From Rienfs 10 Apr 42.
WX12404	A/Cpl	Thompson	B.C. HQ	" " " " " " "

DISTRIBUTION

CO, 2i/c, RMO, RSM, I/O, T/O,  
 QM, 24 Bde, Amenities Officer, War Diary (2)  
 Postal Cpl, Offrs Mess, Sgts Mess, Band Sgt,  
 2 Ech, Notice Board, File, Gd Comdr,  
 Coys : HQ, A, B, C, D, 10 Pl (2 each)

*C. E. L. L. L. L. L.*  
 for Adjnt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn. <sup>Capt.</sup>

NOTICES

Lost : Torch Electric No 1 at exercise night 7/3 Apr 42. Finder return Sig Officer.

Lost in assembly area (C Coy) 6 Apr 42 - Watch in leather strap stamped WX10040. Watch is square chrome Dorley, oblong shape and luminous. On back engraved "From Sally to Joe 12-12-40" Finder return to Bn HQ.

ACF

Receipt is acknowledged of the following Camp Comforts for distribution :-

- 830 Cakes of Soap
- 841 Pkts of Razor Blades
- 841 Handkerchiefs
- 1682 Pkts of PKs
- 115 Lbs of Cake
- 204 Tins of fruit

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O. No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
14 APRIL 42. (628 DAY).

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 321

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. PERSONAL CLOTHING AND EFFECTS - SICK PERSONNEL.

In all cases where personnel are sent to R.A.P. for medical attention, all personal clothing and effects of such men must accompany them.

Cases have occurred of this instructions not being complied with resulting in men being evacuated to hospital without the necessary clothing and some have now left the area and are separated from their kit.

Coys will ensure this order is rigidly enforced.

2. URINATING FROM VEHICLES.

Reports received show that cases have occurred of personnel urinating from the back of vehicles whilst the vehicle is in motion. Such action will not be tolerated and disciplinary action will in future be taken against offenders.

O/C Parties will ensure necessary halts are made for purpose of urinating and then only in suitable localities.

3. MARRIAGES IN THE LEBANON.

The law of the LEBANON provides that no marriage of a soldier (which includes all Australian troops) may be performed without the permission of the soldier's C.O. being first obtained. Any marriage contracted without the completion of the local legal requirements may accordingly not receive legal recognition subsequently in Australian States.

A.M.R. & O. 1323, which provides that Australian soldiers do not require permission to marry, is not binding in this respect.

A commanding officer will investigate applications for marriage and will give his consent to a marriage at his discretion.

Before consenting to a marriage a commanding officer will :

- (a) satisfy himself that the soldier is not already married,
  - (b) inform the soldier personally (confirmed in writing) that the consent does not bind the Australian Government to repatriate the wife to Australia, or afford protection for the wife, and
  - (c) before the marriage is performed, arrange for the bona fides and antecedents of the proposed bride to be investigated by FSS. bc
- Should the FSS report unfavourable the consent will be withheld.

To assist in proving that the requirements of LEBANESE law have been met, the consent should be in writing. One copy should be given to the Clergyman performing the marriage and the other retained by the wife with the marriage certificate.

The Commanding Officer is not bound to consent to a marriage even if the requirements mentioned above are fulfilled. The matter is one entirely within his discretion.

(9 Aust Div Instrs of 8 Apr 42).

4. SMUGGLING OF HASHISH.

- (a) It is known that large sums of money are offered to drivers of military vehicles to smuggle hashish, possibly under the guise of something else, into EGYPT.
- (b) Rewards will be given to any NCO or man giving information which leads to the arrest of a hashish dealer.
- (c) Severe disciplinary action will be taken against any man caught attempting to smuggle the drug.

5. BLANKETS - MISUSE OF.

Attention is drawn to the practice of using blankets as covers for office tables. Officers Commanding units will take steps to ensure that this practice ceases as from the publication of this order.

It is suggested that, where cover is essential, brown paper be used in lieu.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 228.)

6. WASTAGE OF PETROL.

Considerable wastage of petrol is incurred through :-

- (a) Filling vehicle tanks from pumps at a rate which causes air locks and overflowing.
- (b) Drivers of vehicles insisting upon their vehicle tanks being filled to overflowing both at pumps and from containers.

The driver is responsible for supervising the refueling of his vehicle. A reasonable degree of care will obviate all losses from too-rapid filling from pumps. Filling vehicle tanks to overflowing is deliberate waste.

Notices to this effect will be posted up at all points at which petrol is issued and at petrol pumps in Unit Lines.

(9 Aust Div R.O. 232.)

PART 1B.

1. BATTLE CASUALTIES

WX5528	Pte Ral P.	D Coy	Previously reported missing in action, now reported killed in action. 3 Aug 41.
WX6732	" Duncan H.C.J."		do.

2. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX7270	Pte Griffiths W.S.	A Coy	11 Apr 42.
WX7605	" Park S.W.E.	D "	13 Apr 42.

3. PUNISHMENTS

WX5981	Cpl Allison D.W.	HQ Coy	AWL. Reprimanded. Auto forfe 1 days pay. 13 Apr 42.
WX10063	Pte Marshall C.A.	"	Admonished. Auto forfe 1 days pay. 13 Apr 42.

4. TRANSFERS OUT

WX6939	Pte Candy C.D.H.	HQ Coy	To No 3 AMC Unit. 13 Apr 42.
WX8991	" Cornwell E.J.	D "	To Depot Bn (For Med Bd). 14 Apr 42.

-----3-----

4. POSTING TO COY

WX6887 Licut *Keogh* J.D.

Posted to <sup>A</sup> Coy 14 Apr 42.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Ech,  
Notice bd, File, Guard Commander,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D & 10 Pl (2 each).

*J. J. [Signature]*  
Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

NOTICES

FOUND: One leather waist belt. Owner may have same by applying to Bn HQ and describing.



SIEGE OF TOBRUK

THE PERIMETER CLOSES

Account of first day on Derna Road.

(By WX3405 Capt V.R. NORTHWOOD).

*War Diary*

9.

For two or three days a constant stream of military traffic had been flowing into TOBRUK -- and beyond -- along the Derna Road. Often vehicles would lurch to a standstill at the water-point adjacent to the rd just within the perimeter -- tired and dusty troops would crawl from the piles of gear, strip, and enjoy a hasty shower whilst the water containers were being replenished. It was from them that our fellows, ever eager with questions, learnt first hand what was going on "up top". Jerry was coming some Tommies from Benghazi told our men, "and coming pretty b----- quick". We heard tales of parts of our convoys being directed ~~of~~ the correct route by Germans, who, working ahead of their main bodys, posed as Provost personnel. Incidents of this kind caused a lot of confusion and it was very hard to get a clear picture of what was happening.

Officially we knew that on April 7 9 Aust Div, less 24 Aust Inf Bde, which was already within the Tobruk perimeter, had withdrawn to Gazala and that a rearguard action to delay the enemy was in progress. We also knew, quite unofficially, from our own deductions on hearing the alarmist reports of some of the more excitable of those coming back, why the withdrawal was later referred to jocularly by our men as "the Benghazi Handicap".

But let me explain what we were doing in Tobruk and paint a word picture of conditions as we found them on our arrival at the outer defence perimeter. We, the 2/28 Aust Inf Bn, had moved with our Bde, 24 Aust Inf Bde, from Palestine to the desert arriving at Tobruk by rd on March 26, 1941, ostensibly for the purpose of doing garrison duties and completing our training. Our first impressions of the place did not rank it very high in our favour. Barren, rock-strewn, and without even a tree to redeem it in our eyes -- and then on our second night we had a "dust storm" .... I still consider it one of the worst we had during our long sojourn there. There was no escaping it. It sifted into every dugout, eked its way into every pocket, filled the eyes and ears, matted the hair, spread itself ever so finely on every morsel we sought to eat. We just did not like the place. The only redeeming feature was the sight of the blue Mediterranean to which we quickly found our way for a luxurious albeit very chilly, bathe.

A Coy of the 2/28 Bn was then on an inner defence line, between the Derna rd and the sea and South of Wadi Tberegh. On April 1 (we recalled then that it was April Fools day) the Bn was ordered to move to the outer perimeter defences, a series of concrete strong-posts built by the Italians. The Bn then had a front of approximately 6000 yards, from Post S21 (incl) to Post R17 (incl), Bn HQ being in an old Italian bty posn 1000 yards West of Bianca. A Coy, which my account concerns, was on the right, occupying posts S21, S19, S14, S17, S15 and S12. C Coy was in the centre and D Coy on the left, with B Coy held in reserve in vicinity of Bianca.

Under command Lieut now Captain A.L.F. TAYLOR, 7 Platoon occupied S21 on the right of the Derna rd and some diggings which they had constructed, including one in which Platoon HQ was established. 9 Platoon in charge of Lieut A.D. WALLACE, occupied S19 on the lip of the deep wadi which ran South from the Derna rd and also S14, a rear post on the flat between the main East West scarp and the Derna rd, and in which were Pl HQ. Coy HQ was first established in some dugouts in a shallow wadi on the reverse side of the hill on which S19 was situated. Later Coy HQ was transferred to a concrete water pumping station at the end of this wadi and on the edge of the scarp, being some 200 yards South of the Derna rd. S17 was occupied by a detachment from 3 Platoon, under command of A Coy, and in charge of Sgt J.A. HOTHERSALL. This detachment was armed with an Italian 3" mortar. 8 Platoon was in occupation of Posts S15 and S12, Lieut W.A. CARLTON, the Pl comd, having established his HQ in the latter post.

The next few days were spent in cleaning out the concrete posts which had been occupied since Tobruk fell in the initial victorious advance some three months previously. They were filthy, flea ridden and cluttered with the debris of burnt out weapons and exploded ammunition. These defences were also improved by the construction of fire positions.

Coy HQ personnel on arrival smiled with delight at finding quite substantial dugouts in a spot comparatively well protected from the dust, which was still blowing intermittently and busy hands set to work to clean them out and make them habitable. Our delight was shortlived --- we all spent a very restless night, were up at daybreak, stripped, and promptly conducted an energetic flea hunt. They were enormous fleas, the like of which we had never felt before. One young lad writing home at this time stated "You've never seen fleas as big as the ones we've got here -- one I caught today had a head as big as a horse. My mate says he heard one of the chaps in another platoon had his leg bitten clean off by one last night, but I don't know if this is true as he's such a flamin' liar" -- the sense of humour that was to stand us in such good stead in the long months to follow was showing through.

That day we burnt out the dugouts, spread dieselene over the earth floors and before retiring liberally sprinkled ourselves and our blankets with flea powder. Those fleas, however, had been hungry too long to be so lightly dissuaded. By the next evening our new dugouts were complete -- and we were able to give our undivided attention to what was happening around us.

On April 6 our C.O., Lt-col J.E. LLOYD M.C. (now Brig. LLOYD D.S.O., M.C.) was called to a conference at Bde HQ. On his return he called a conference of Coy Comds and informed them that an attack could be expected the next morning. Bn HQ moved that night to post S2. Several 75 mm Italian guns, manned by 4 Pl personnel, were moved to positions on the front from which they could engage A.F.Vs. Two guns were sent to A Coy area -- one in charge of Sgt Rule in vicinity of post S15, and the other alongside the Derna rd. This latter, manned by Cpl J. Tracey-Patte, Cpl Jack Smith, Dvr, D. "Nick" Blair and Pte E.R. Appleyard, was the first Iti ("bush") gun to be fired from the Tobruk fortress, the first shot being fired at about 1030 hrs on Thursday, April 10. Altogether between 80 and 100 rds were fired by this gun that day. This is interesting in view of the activities of "Bush Batteries" throughout the siege.

The expected attack did not develop. And now I take up my tale from where I began. The next three days passed with rumours rife concerning the advance of the Jerry. Under the direction of an R.E. officer a team of our men was busy laying Italian "coffin" mines on either side of the Derna rd forward of the wire. The wire itself along the front was patched up as thoroughly and expeditiously as possible. All day long vehicles were streaming in, some with troops, some loaded with gear and some almost empty. A few A Coy men were detailed to assist in checking vehicles into the perimeter. On one occasion a man was stopped as he tried to enter the perimeter on foot. He stated that he had driven from Sidi Barrani and that his vehicle had broken down. He was clad partly in civilian clothes and partly in Italian uniform. He was taken in charge and I subsequently heard that he was found to be a German. With the aid of an Italian "battle buggy" which 7 Pl had commandeered, we dragged a derelict diesel truck partly across the road to form a road block and check the passage of vehicles. Each morning a handful of reconnaissance vehicles (18 Cav Div and King's Dragoon Guards, I believe) nosed west along the Derna rd to gain information.

#### A HUN DOWNED

We had seen some aerial activity over Tobruk and on April 9 three Messerschmidt 109's attempted to machine gun our positions along the Derna road. I think they had spotted a Bofors and were trying to silence it. Everything was being thrown up at the Jerry planes -- most of our fellows pot-shotting with their rifles too, when one of the planes, banking steeply to climb from a low dive, showed a full white belly to the gun crew.

We instantly sensed the Jerry had been hit -- his motors roared as he struggled to get up, then he flattened out in a long glide with engines coughing crazily .... "He's down ...." we all shouted. With terrific force the plane hit the edge of the wadi right over 7 Pl's positions, burst into flame and the whole burning mass leapt a hundred yards into the ravine. A huge pall of black smoke hung over the scene ... from everywhere troops were running to the spot. There was practically nothing of the plane -- just a twisted metal frame -- the engines had been hurled far from the point of impact. All that could be seen of the German occupants were two pitiful red bundles of flesh ..... War.

That night and far into the early morning there was a constant drone of motors as vehicles came in. By daybreak all movement had ceased. The Coy had been warned that it would be moving that day, April 10, to another sector and we were about early packing gear ready for the move. Coy HQ put its three drums of reserve water, rations and men's gear on a big diesel truck which was left near the water pumping station to which HQs had been moved. Major C.H. Henning OC of the Coy, had left early for a conference at Bn HQ in connection with our move, leaving me in command of the Coy. Our engineers had prepared for demolition a concrete bridge on the Derna rd some 300 to 400 yards forward of S21, five 500 lb aerial bombs being laid beneath the structure. We were warned that we would have to move back 800 yards before the charge was set off and that due warning would be given.

At about 0930 hrs a report was phoned to me by Lieut Carlton that some wounded Indians had come in through the wire. The report had come from one of his sections at S15. As I could not get a clear account I decided to contact the Indians myself. I located some Indian troops from 18 Cav Div on a truck driving towards my HQ from the direction of S 17. So far as I could ascertain none of them was wounded. I did elicit the information that the enemy was close and would make contact with us very soon. I did my best to learn where they had got through the perimeter wire and minefields as I feared there might be a gap of which we were not aware. The language difficulty was too great, however, and I could see no purpose in delaying them. I warned Bn HQ and also my posts that the Indians had come through somewhere south of the Derna rd. I learned later in the day that two armoured cars of the 18 Cav Div had been let through the wire between S 15 and S 17.

#### THE FIREWORKS START

At about 1000 hrs there was a deafening explosion and the earth seemed to quake. We knew that the bridge had been blown. At this moment from S 21, which had a good view along the Derna rd, a column of enemy vehicles was seen coming down the road, the leading vehicle being about 1000 yards from the bridge when it went up. The vehicles immediately dispersed, some swinging north towards the sea and others to the south. Just prior to this, two troops of R.H.A. (I.R.H.A., I believe) had taken up positions on our front. Four 18 pdrs. were on the left of the rd and four 4.5 Howitzers on the right of the rd. There was no time to dig in. As the enemy column divided our guns immediately commenced firing, the "bush" gun manned by Cpl Tracey-Patte and his crew and the forward 47 mm gun also joining in. The 18 pdrs. engaged two armoured cars which came over a ridge north of the road. The leading vehicle was hit and the second one withdrew. Troop carrying vehicles could now be seen quite plainly to the north of the rd and in all it appeared that three vehicles had been hit. A German tank pulled in behind a rise and commenced firing at our guns, one trailer being hit and one gun put out of action.

Observation from Coy HQs was through a partly sandbagged window and with the aid of binoculars I was able to observe enemy troops debussing from transport on high ground toward the sea. As I watched vehicles (they may have been tanks) nose their way down to the wadi and then turn back I was puzzled, as a glance at the map was sufficient to disclose that no car or tank could ever cross the wadi. The troops appeared to be standing around their vehicles or moving aimlessly to and fro. The vehicles which had moved south of the Derna rd followed a track over the escarpment and at about 1030 hrs, 30 or 40 were observed moving along the track towards S 17. Shortly afterwards they were engaged by the 75 mm "bush" gun manned by Sgt Rule and his crew, and at

least three hits were obtained. Some troops debussed and as they bunched together Sgt Hothersall with his 3-inch Iti mortar did some good work and inflicted casualties. The enemy then dispersed to cover.

Reports of vehicle and troops movement were constantly coming in to me from 7 Pl and 8 Pl which were connected to Coy HQs by phone and these and my own observations were phoned back to Bn HQ. As the building occupied by Coy HQ was tucked away in the north side of the scarp I could see nothing of what was going on over the hill towards S 17 and beyond. To remedy this, Sig. Les Alford crawled up the pipe drain and established a switchboard near the top of the hill. The English artillery officer had come across to my HQ to gather what information I had and we both crawled up the drain to have a look over the hill. As everything seemed quiet we stood up to take a tally of the Jerry A.F.Vs and vehicles which we could see. Suddenly, rat-tat-tat-tat -- and we both lost no time in getting back into the drain. Though this machine gun fire was, I estimated, coming from 1,500 yards away, it was remarkably close and each time we exposed any portion of ourselves we heard it stutter its little message of hate. We kept very low and got back down the hill. As the spot was out of the question as an O.P. I left the phone and again used the concrete building as HQ.

It was now about 1200 hrs and 7 Pl in S 21 were engaged by machine gun fire. In Coy HQ the signallers were busy at the switchboard receiving and sending reports -- a few of the riflemen were resting. No one felt like eating but I advised them all to eat while we had the chance. To set an example I struggled with a hunk of bully beef from a tin which I opened. It nearly choked me and I was glad to swallow a few mouthful from a water bottle someone handed me. Soon everyone was doing his best -- but it was a meal no one enjoyed.

#### COURAGEOUS TOMMIES

At about 1330 hrs things started to liven up properly from Jerry's end. He had by this time got the range of our guns and he commenced shelling the area unmercifully. For superb courage I am sure those Tommies could never be outdone. The area was alive with bursting shells but they kept at it, methodically firing as though nothing untoward was happening around them. Occasionally a shell would appear to burst almost on the gun, but when the dust cleared the crew was still there, carrying on. It was a marvellous show and just the sort of thing we ---- seeing action for the first time -- wanted to steady us in our task. An ammunition waggon received a direct hit and was set ablaze. Agonising screams quickly brought the gun crew to the spot and they dragged their badly wounded mate from the flames. They carried him to the ditch at the roadside and as they did so a machine gun opened fire on them. They crouched low over the wounded man and a moment later one of them ran back to an ambulance which had been left some three hundred yards back along the road. The ambulance was brought up and even as the injured man was being lifted into it the party was again machine gunned. This fire continued as the ambulance sped back towards Tobruk. The incident filled us with cold hate.

Meanwhile the Bren gunners in our forward posts were finding an occasional target. Our shelling and this small arms fire checked any forward movement on Jerry's part. The enemy fire had now also thickened up considerably on to our F.D.Ls. though I am sure most of our posts were not located and that the artillery was drawing the greater part of the fire. Several buildings along the scarp behind us, which had been used as an L.A.D. up to a few days previously and about which were many derelict vehicles, were fired on by anti-tank guns. We could hear the hiss of the shells and see the red flash of the tracer as they sped across the flat. Mortar fire was now consistently engaging targets in our rear. At 1500 hrs Major Henning rang to inquire whether he could get around to us but I advised him not to try until dark. The flat was being swept by machine gun fire and the hill was none too healthy. A coil of signal wire outside our door was made to literally dance off the ground as a burst of machine gun fire hit it. Once a piece of shell hit the roof and sent us all flat on our tummies but fortunately nothing came through the window.

We were to have been relieved at 1430 hrs by B Coy, 2/24 Bn and we actually saw our relief moving in extended line towards us. The enemy engaged them with artillery and mortar fire, however, causing several casualties and the relief commenced to dig in. We tried to locate the enemy machine gunners, hoping, as we had no machine guns ourselves, to get the artillery onto the target. Sig. Heath drew my attention to what he thought was movement among some camel thorn on the side of a rise about two thousand yards away but though I watched the spot through my glasses for fully five minutes I could see no sign of movement or of a gun firing. On the other side of the wadi in front of S 19 individual Jerries were seen making their way forward cautiously, obviously machine gunners mounting fixed lines on any of our posts they could see. They were immediately engaged by our Bren gunners and rifle-men and casualties were claimed.

I had noticed that the vehicles -- it was impossible at the distance to make out which were troop carrying transport, tanks or A.F.Vs. -- which had early in the morning swung off the Derna rd toward the sea had disappeared and a little later a general movement toward the south was observed. As a proportion of the vehicles were troop carrying transport it was most likely that some enemy troops had been left along our front north of the Derna rd to dig in. Jerry had by this time no doubt realised that what he had thought was to be a "walk over" into Tobruk was not coming off.

#### DUSK AND QUIETNESS

At 1700 hrs some of our guns which had been put out of action were withdrawn and the remainder of the artillery left soon after. By 1800 hrs enemy fire had ceased entirely -- the menacing quietness, in sharp contrast to the fireworks which had preceded it, did not put us off our guard. We remained watchful on our front. At dusk thinking that our relief would have difficulty in finding Coy HQ, I handed my torch to one of the signallers and got him to flash back the signal "A" Coy HQ! several times. This could not be seen by the enemy. I learned later that the message had been seen by our own troops.

Just on dark, which was about 2030 hrs, Major Henning came with information that our relief would take over from us that night and that we were to move to another sector. With him was Capt Anderson, OC of the Coy which was to occupy our posts. Major Henning then left, taking with him Pte H.R. Gilbert, one of the Orderlies. He was to meet me back on the Derna rd when the change-over was completed as I did not know what had transpired at the conference, that morning, nor even to which position within the fortress we were to go when relieved. Capt Anderson returned to his Coy, which was some distance back, and said that he would return within an hour or so.

Midnight came and still there was no sign of the relief -- I was becoming perturbed and rang Bn HQ to find out if they knew the position. C Coy on our left had been relieved. The sound of the vehicles from that quarter caused quite a deal of alarm at my 8 Pl posts and reports started to come in concerning enemy tanks warming up and later of tanks encircling their positions. A little later I went to S 12 (a distance of approximately 2,000 yards from my HQ) and found everything quiet. At 0100 hrs there was still no sign of our relief.

Earlier in the night the C.O. had rung to say three trucks would be sent to me to transport the Coy and gear to the new sector. At 0200 hrs Col. Lloyd came himself in his car along the track which passed by S12 and S17. He had brought four large trucks, one of which he had left at S12 for the use of 8 Pl. His instructions were to pull out our two 47 mm Italian anti-tank guns and our 75 mm gun when we were relieved. The 75 mm gun was right forward, overlooking the spot where the Derna rd passed through the perimeter wire. I replied that I would do my best. I suspected that the positions were well taped by the Jerry with machine guns on fixed lines. Col. Lloyd said: "Not do your best - get them out!. I remember saying quietly: "The flat has been swept with machine gun fire all the afternoon, sir, and I think he has fixed lines on our forward positions; however I will do as you say." I caught a hint of a smile as the Colonel replied: "Alright, do what you can; you'll get them out alright".

OUR RELIEF ARRIVES

At 0300 hrs we heard movement in our rear and caught the faint outline of a large body of men moving. Accompanied by Lieut Wallace and CSM Holding I went forward and found it was our relief. Without more ado I sent CSM Holding to guide the Pl which was to relieve my 7 Pl at S21, and instructed Lieut Wallace to arrange the change over of his Pl. I then took Capt Anderson and the Pl Comdr and his men who were to relieve 8 Pl over to S12. It seemed a long two thousand yards and once I thought I had gone too far and called a halt while I made a brief reconnaissance. Though I had warned Lieut Carlton that we were on our way, I did not want to risk his sentries opening fire. The change-over having commenced, I returned to Coy HQ with Capt Anderson and told him all I knew of the position. I had given orders that personnel from 9 Pl and Coy HQ were to move back on foot to their vehicles which were to be at a rendezvous I had named some thousand yards back on the Derna road. 7 Pl's truck was able to get closer. 8 Pl was to move on their vehicle to the rendezvous as soon as the changeover was complete. When all other personnel were clear of the area I went forward with CSM Holding and two other men to assist the gun crews to pull out the guns. The two 47 mm guns were no difficulty as we lifted them on to the truck. The latter was a large and noisy diesel W.O.P. job and it seemed to me that it was making twice as much noise as ordinarily. On reaching the 75 mm gun we fastened a hawser to it and commenced to drag it from the pit. The noise was terrific and I expected at any moment to hear the staccato rattle of Jerry's machine guns. All was quiet, however, and we dragged our lumbering charge on to the road. Why the German did not fire I do not know as subsequent reports show he was still there at daybreak. No doubt he was puzzled as to what was happening and was too busy digging in to do much about it.

OUR TASK ENDS

Back at the rendezvous we waited to the arrival of 8 Pl on their truck and then set off, at 0520 hrs, just as first light was showing in the east. In all we had five trucks (all W.O.Ps.). Gear and men were piled high all over them. About a dozen men were perched on the two 47 mm guns on the truck which had the big gun in tow. As we got clear the men started talking light heartedly to one another -- it was as well they did for suddenly our convoy came to a sudden standstill and I saw men run across the road. I jumped down from the rear truck to find out what was wrong and was greeted by the artillery officer who had been with us earlier in the day:

"By God, your lucky", he said. "We thought it was a break through and we've got our guns ready to fire on you."

It appeared through some misunderstanding that they were not aware we were being relieved. I remember remarking something about "being a bit lucky", for it was not until later that I really thought much of what might have happened, and then we were on our way. Major Henning had left an orderly at the spot we had arranged with a map marked with five pencilled crosses -- four on the perimeter in the south-east sector and one alongside the Bardia road at a spot through which the Blue Line later ran and to which we were to go as a Bde reserve. Remarkable as it seems we had suffered no casualties throughout the day.

As we swung from the Derna rd and skirted the harbour I could see the outlines of sunken ships and discern the shape of the town on the north shore -- a sight the Jerries had no doubt hoped would be theirs that dawn.

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War Diary

THEY LEAVE TOBRUCH

The Commanding officer of the 2/28 Battalion was sitting in his room in the villa Delia. It was a small stone room with only the bare necessities of furniture. His table was covered with the usual reports of the days activity which were waiting his attention. He would go through them with his Adjutant later. Having just returned from a conference with the Brigadier, his thoughts were occupied with those ~~xxx~~ matters. As he was ruminating he heard a footstep on the stone path-way outside his room. The heavy blanket which covered the doorway was gently pulled aside and his Intelligence officer entered.

"sit down" said the Colonel, "I have one or two matters I wish to discuss with you. But before we start on that, what is the news of the front tonight?"

"very quiet, sir," was the reply, "I have had reports from all the outposts, and no enemy movement has been detected. The fighting patrols to "Jill " and "Butch" have left the perimeter."

"Good"

The Battalion was occupying a position on the Tobruch perimeter astride the Bardia Road. For the past three weeks the enemy activity had been increasing, and it was necessary to be constantly in touch with the outposts. Jack, which was the name given to the outpost furthest from the perimeter in this sector, had been captured by an enemy raiding party about ten days previously, and a ~~similar~~ raid on another outpost might be made at any time. Jill and Butch were the names given to two of the outposts which were being manned day and night.

"I have just returned from brigade", began the Colonel, "and have been given some very secret news. I have received information that we are to be relieved from Tobruch."

So it had come at last. The matter had been discussed for many weeks. Rumours had been prevalent among the troops, about leaving Tobruch, so much so, that some even had rumoured the date of departure. There were many reasons for these rumours. Some units of the poles had come to Tobruch, and it was known that some Australian troops had already left. These reliefs could only take place on moonless nights, and it was now the middle of September, and shortly the moon would again allow shipping in the harbour.

"I know nothing of dates or times, but I have three map reference I shall give you."

The Colonel took a piece of paper from his pocket, and read sets of figures.

"The first is an assembly area, and the other two are embarkation points. I want you to have a look at these places tomorrow. The scheme is that the incoming unit will disembark at one or both of these points, and then move to the assembly area. They will go from this area to a position in reserve. We shall be relieved from this position and go into Divisional Reserve before leaving Tobruch.

The Intelligence went over to the map, which was hanging on the wall.

"The Assembly Area", he said after he had studied the map for a moment, "is near the junction of the Derna Road and the Bardia Road on the outskirts of the town. One embarkation point is on the South side of the harbour, and the other is almost opposite, on the North side".

He showed the positions to the commanding officer.

"I shall want you to go on your own, as I do not want anyone else to know about it yet," the Colonel said, "you will have an opportunity of taking your men over the routes later. At the moment I want you to select routes to these places and make yourself familiar with them. Who is your driver?"

"Connor, sir. I shall take his vehicle. I can easily make some excuse for not taking him with me."

"Yes. I know he can keep his mouth shut, but it is better to do it that way."

"I suppose you expected this," challenged the Colonel.

"I think we all have sir" was the reply, "we have heard so

much about this relief that it now seems strange that it will come about."

They remained talking about the relief, and how it would take place, neither mentioning his feelings towards it. It had been a tiring six months, and everyone looked forward to the day when he could have a hot bath and a long sleep. But they had come to Tobruch by road and they had hoped to leave by road. This meant that the enemy would be driven back, and although there seemed to be some indication of an allied drive from Sallam, there was no more evidence of a further enemy attempt to take Tobruch.

There were two roads leading to the embarkation point on the South shore. One followed round the waters edge past the distillery. This was a well defined road and one easy to follow in the darkness. The South shore of the harbour was a steep escarpment, broken by a series of wadis. The brown earth of the desert at the side of the road was mostly with old Italian rubbish. Anything the Italians had left which was not of immediate use remained as a monument to the allied capture of Tobruch. Shipping was too difficult a task, and shipping space too valuable, to allow salvage mongers any scope. The troops inside the perimeter had salvaged everything possible for their own use, and this was waste. The steepness of the escarpment along the shore caused many sharp bends in the road. It was a good track for small vehicles, but dangerous to the large troop carrying lorries of the transport company. The other road was really no more than a track, and had become a road only because it was used frequently. No road repairs were done in Tobruch. The desert was hard enough to carry all types of vehicles, and this was the only essential attribute. It did not matter that along a new road the vehicle bumped over camel bush mounds, and on a much used track the truck lurched out of one rut into the next. The road was passable, and that was all that was necessary.

The wharf on the south shore was an old Italian freighter. It had been captured from the Italians, and used to carry stores to the garrison at Tobruch. Whilst unloading one night, it had been bombed by the Germans. Although now no more than a wreck, it still served a useful purpose. At nightfall a carefully hidden pontoon bridge was placed between the wreck and the shore. This was sufficient to enable men to cross the fifty yards of water in single file, and the tell tale air camera could not detect the "jetty".

It was an interesting sight to see troops arrive and leave the besieged city from this point. A small group of men appeared at nightfall, in addition to Liaison Officers, these included the Embarkation Officer, a few engineers to erect the pontoon, and a medical officer. The doctor was always there. Troops were going to ~~see~~ congregate in this area, and a well placed aerial bomb would cause considerable injury. When preliminary arrangements had been completed the party awaited the arrival of the troops. At about ten o'clock the stillness of the night was broken by the grinding of heavy vehicles in low gear. Low gear was the only gear on these roads. The big ten tonners travelled close together, so that when a driver could not see the road in the darkness, he could see the back of the vehicle in front of him. The convoy of vehicles stopped in an open space above the track leading down to the pontoon. The troops clambered out and stood beside their trucks. A quick check was made to ensure that all vehicles had arrived. Brief reports were taken from the officer in charge of each group of men. "All correct sir" was repeated down the line.

"When you are ready to move sir, I'll send you down to the ship". said an N.C.O. to the officer in charge of the troops.

He led the way down a narrow path to the pontoon.

A man stood at the head of the bridge and passed these instructions to the men as they came to the swaying decking of the pontoon bridge. The troops filed down the narrow path and on to the pontoon bridge. At each step the floats sank a few inches in the water and then bobbed up again. The bridge writhed and swayed making it difficult for the heavily loaded men to keep a footing. As the men came up to the wreck they were crowded up to one end. Tighter and tighter they were packed in the stern of the old freighter until all troops were on board. The foredeck of the ship was left clear so that the incoming soldiers could march straight off to the shore ~~and~~



by the pontoon bridge. All this was completed, and yet there was no sign of the destroyer.

"She usually arrives at midnight", volunteered the embarkation officer, "these Navy birds are usually on time".

No indication was given that any ships were in the harbour, until someone said "There's one of them". The dark outline of a ship could be seen moving in the darkness. She was opposite the wreck before anyone had seen her. A man who was standing on the bow of the wreck gave a short flash of a hand torch down at his feet. The dark form of the destroyer was seen to turn in towards the wreck. When this turn had been completed and the destroyer was heading for the wreck, the muffled beam of the torch was again seen. The light of the torch was barely visible, and seemed to have been on only for a moment, when a voice from the darkness called, "Turn off that light".

The destroyer glided alongside the wreck stopping about two feet from the "Tobruch jetty". While some sailors were making fast the ropes, others were heaving cargo on to the deck of the old freighter. Everybody was working to have the job finished in the shortest possible time. Two gangways were placed in position. From one, troops filed off the ship across the wreck and on to the pontoon ~~bridge~~ bridge. The soldiers herded in the stern on the wreck filed on board the destroyer by the other gangway. Up the track to the lorries went the fresh troops, on the deck of the destroyer filed the "rats" as Lord Haw-Haw had called them. It was a very short time before the change was complete, and the last bag thrown on to the deck of the derelict freighter. The ropes were cast off, and the destroyer glided astern. She could be seen to turn and then disappear in the darkness. The drivers started the engines of their vehicles, and with a fresh load were grinding along the dusty track. All stores had to be removed from the wreck before dawn, so a small party of men carried these to the shore and loaded the bags on to the waiting trucks. This completed, the pontoon bridge was removed to its place of hiding. The old wreck once again lay abandoned in the harbour, with no clue to the important part it had played in the night's activity.

Some days later the Battalion received orders that it was to be relieved by the 2/17 Battalion. A relief from the front line had been a difficult task for the Battalion when it first came to Tobruch. Conferences were held and detailed orders issued. But now reliefs had been carried out so many times that they presented no difficulty. There few parts of the Tobruch perimeter where people could move about without being seen by the enemy. In the salient any movement at all would bring machine gun fire or the shots of a sniper. In other parts small parties could move about, but more than two or three men, or the movement of vehicles would result in enemy artillery fire. All reliefs were therefore carried out at ~~the~~ night. Guides were detailed to lead the incoming troops into position and to lead the companies to Pilastrino where they were to rest. Notwithstanding the darkness of the night, no lights could be used by the vehicles, in fact few vehicles in Tobruch had any lights.

It was necessary for part of the journey that men should walk in front of the lorries to show the driver the road. Nobody liked Pilastrino. It was the dustiest place in Tobruch where the slightest breeze became a dust storm. Nevertheless it was out of the line, and had that to commend it. On this occasion, few members of the unit believed the story that the next move of the Battalion ~~was to be to the salient~~ ~~was to be to the salient~~ would be to the salient, and Pilastrino was regarded as the first stepping stone to Alexandria.

Nobody was told they were leaving the desert, but everyone knew. Troops are very quick to make deductions from what they see. Conferences of officers were held. Surplus gear was destroyed. Surplus gear was destroyed, and men were told to pack all their spare clothing in kit bags which were collected. When the advance ~~party~~ party of the King's Own Royal Rifles arrived no one was surprised, the men only waited to be told the date. The actual orders for relief were not given until the last moment. The Battalion had handed over to the advance party and were prepared to move at short notice, no one needed to know more. The only eventuality which was feared was that the enemy would make an attack which could necessitate the employment of extra troops.

At nightfall on the 23 Sept the 2/28 Battalion commenced its move from Tobruch. Convoys of troop carrying transport stopped on the road below the ruins of Fort Pilastrino. On arrival, each of the vehicles were given a number. Each man knew the number of the vehicle in which he was to travel, and on a given signal every man climbed aboard. The men took with them only those belongings they could carry on their backs, because both hands had to be free to climb the ladder up the ships side. When all were ready one convoy was guided to the embarkation point on the North shore and another to the South of the harbour.

The convoy carrying the troops to the North shore proceeded along the Pilastrino Road entering the town of Tobruch by the Derna Road. Men were quiet, each with his own thoughts. All danger was not over. Orders were given that in the event of an air raid the embarkation would go on. The severest air raids of Tobruch had been on the harbour, and a severe raid would have created many difficulties, and dashed many hopes. Casual remarks were all the conversation that took place, and from these remarks it was easy to judge men's feelings. "After I've had a good sleep", one remarked, "I think I'll try ~~and~~ to get rid of some of these fleas!" Another said "There're so many things I want to eat, I don't think they'll all fit in to one meal." "It's a pity not to finish the job we started, Tom," said a third, "but you've got to do what you're told in the army." There is always a touch of humour on these occasions. Someone said, "Fares please H'all around the 'arbour for two bob."

The Derna Road leads into Tobruch from the west. In daylight it is possible to see numerous derelict Italian vehicles on either side of the road. Only one of these is sufficiently close to the side of the road to be discernable at night. The convoy moved along the road in complete darkness. As the leading vehicle passed this wreck the driver said, "There she is, I had been waiting for that." Involuntarily everyone who knew the road was doing the same. The road turned up the hill into the town of Tobruch. The dim outline of damaged houses could be seen on either side of the road. It was the town of air raids. Not one building remained unscarred by aerial bombing or machine gun fire. The town was deserted; what had once been the main street of the town was now no more than a road between battered shops. Through all the bombing the tower of the church, and the little Minaret had ~~remained~~ remained standing.

The convoy stopped almost as soon as it had cleared the town, and the troops formed up on the side of the road. The vehicles moved away immediately. Drivers knew it was wise to remain in that area only so long as it was absolutely necessary. This was the bomb aimers target area. Everyone felt that he was near the enemy and running the gauntlet and without realising it officers gave orders in subdued tones. There was no need for this precaution, as the nearest German was more than ten miles away and an air raid was the only danger. From this point to the wharf, a distance of about a mile the men marched. Only the guides and a few officers knew exactly where they were going to embark. When they reached the wharf, the men were divided into groups of one hundred. Each group was led to a military landing craft which was standing ready, and when all were aboard, the engines were started, and the craft pulled out into the harbour.

All eyes peered into the darkness for the first sight of the destroyer. There is only one light in the harbour, and this was a dim green light. The Germans knowing the existence of this light had placed a similar light further along the coast. The trick had never ~~been~~ been successful, and no British ship had been guided onto the rocky desert coast behind the German lines. The craft cruised about in the middle of the harbour waiting for the ships to arrive. No sound could be heard above the chugging of the engines. Suddenly a dark outline of a ship could be discerned in the darkness. The ship had come into the harbour unseen and was now casting anchor. All were surprised to find her so close. The craft pulled alongside and made fast. The work of raising the ladder was done quickly with so many helping hands. Nautical terms were shouted by the ships crew, and one suddenly realised how long it was since one had heard those words, and they sounded like a link with the past. Until all cargo for the garrison had been unloaded, the men were kept on deck, but soon this ~~was~~ completed and the sailors showed them where they could lie down, and

as they did so gave them instructions in the event of an attack Men listened without hearing. They were tired and now there was nothing more for them to do. soon they would be away. packs and haversacks had been used for pillows before, and were used now. Men stretched out wherever there was space and before the ship had left the Harbour many of them were asleep.

Sgt WX3385 Lieut G. Keall  
2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

RAID AND COUNTERRAID

War Diary

By WX3392 Lieut Philip Masel  
O/C 4 Pl, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

One afternoon, early in Sep, 1941, two Bren Carriers from the 2/28 Aust Inf Bn crossed the little wooden bridge across the tank ditch on the Eastern Defences of Tobruk and moved out across no-man's-land. These afternoon patrols were a regular feature of my Pl's work, and took place three or four times a week. The object was elastic and the results were varied. Some times we penetrated deeply enough into the enemy's line to fire a few bursts at working parties before we were pursued home with artillery and A/Tank Weapons; sometimes we brought back information of fresh tracks, new field-works, vehicular movement, or observation posts; sometimes we achieved no more than petrol consumption, dusty faces and a beautiful thirst which beerless Tobruk could do nothing to satisfy. This particular sector of the defences was an amazing one, in that the unit holding it was required to maintain three listening posts - named "Jack", "Jill" and "Kim" -- four thousand yards, three thousand yards and two thousand yards respectively outside the perimeterwire. These outposts were each manned by an officer and twenty O/Rs by night and seven O/Rs by day, and the impudence of their existence was heightened by the fact that we had constructed a "flying fox" to "Kim". All posts were connected to the fortress by telephone. In the event of their being attacked one section of my carriers was expected to move out to bear assistance.

On this particular afternoon, however, nothing more than the usual recce was in the wind. Recently we had become suspicious of a large triangular cairn of white rocks which the enemy could easily be using as an OP, especially as each time we tried to get forward to it we were driven back by artillery fire. Today, spotting through a pair of binoculars I became satisfied that white cairn was definitely in use and that field works had been constructed in the vicinity since our previous patrol. This report aroused some interest on our return, and Capt Alec Johnstone O/C of B Coy, was ordered to make a more detailed investigation under cover of darkness.

"Johnno" confirmed the occupation of white cairn, in so much as when he arrived on the scene he saw signs of recent urination. And the "old man" - Lieut-colonel Lloyd D.S.O., M.C. - at once prepared the details of yet another raid by night.

13-14 Sept  
On the night of 10 Dec, Capt Johnstone led out a patrol, four-tween strong, to raid white cairn. More than usual importance was attached to the venture, as it was believed that the Italians had recently completed an entire divisional relief on this sector and that a new and fresh division (the BOLOGNA) was opposing us. The General was most anxious to obtain a prisoner for identification and examination, and it was hoped that "Johnno" would oblige. The moon was due to rise a little after midnight, so the raid started early. The attackers went out as far as "JACK" in trucks; they were then to go forward on foot to their objective.

Some distance behind the trucks were portion of my Pl in three carriers and another truck. Our roll was similar to what we had carried out on previous raids of a similar nature. Two carriers, under-command of Sgt Murray Tassell, were to rendezvous with "Johnno" and to bring home any wounded or prisoners. In the truck was Eric Rule, my senior Sgt, with two vickers guns and their crews. And an innovation in so far as raiding was concerned was that Lieut Freedman was to take out a mortar detachment on yet another truck. The undulating vastness of camel bush that was no-man's-land was beginning to sound like a motor show! When "Johnno" struck and the enemy laid down his usual defensive fire, the vickers and the mortar were to open up on the gun flashes to cover the withdrawal of the patrol and also to inflict a few extra casualties for good measure. Altogether it promised to be an interesting little show. How interesting we did not suspect.

My own Headquarters were to be established centrally between the two groups of my men. As the carrier rattled forward to its position at Sir Suedi, which was a prominent white mound, we were startled to see three figures ahead of us. Safety-catches went forward with a click, but the visitors proved to be the Old Man, his Adjutant (Captain Lex Lamb) and Major Geoff. Cox, who had decided to take a stroll before the fun started! The chatted with us casually for a few minutes, then nonchalantly strolled back of foot as though they were promenading at Cottesloe or St. Kilda.

At the appointed time and from the correct direction came the signs and sounds of sharp, fierce fighting, B Coy had attacked. In due course I heard the approaching slap of the Carrier tracks, and when we moved across to intercept them we were greeted with the heartening news that the whole party was aboard, that the raid had been an unqualified success, and that the souvenirs included four prisoners, one of whom was an officer.

The one hitch in the programme was that the enemy had surprisingly failed to lay down his defensive fire, and now obviously did not intend to do so. Sgt Rule would therefore be in a quandary as to what to do now, so while the other two Carriers moved inwards the third Carrier turned outwards. We found the Vickers guns without trouble, and I ordered Rule to pack up and to go home. Poor old Rule caught many such dirty and disappointing jobs, but he never complained. Then I decided that I should warn the Mortars of the position. We had an approximate idea of their location, and thanks to the catlike sight of Pte Nick Blair we quickly found them. Lieut Freedman agreed that there was no further point in waiting, and immediately embussed his men. We turned the Carrier towards the perimeter, and to complete our cycle of good luck we did not have to deviate one yard from our course in order to find the bridge across the tank-ditch.

Remembering our last job of the same kind when we had blundered around in the darkness for some hours in search of a returning patrol, we were in high spirits and reckoned that we had had a good night. Thinking not unpleasantly of bed and sleep, I went into A Coy HQ to phone through to the Old Man that everybody was now inside the wire and that all was well. Then I loitered around for a few minutes to hear the details of the raid. All the occupants of the White Cairn and the surrounding Sangars had been killed or captured, and there were some fine examples of personal courage on the part of the patrol. Sgt Potter, for instance, had been wounded by a grenade the blast of which tore his rifle from his hands. He found himself face to face with an opponent who was not devoid of a weapon. But young Potter about 5 feet nothing in height, squared up with his fists, whereupon the Italian threw down his rifle and surrendered. "Johnno" had suffered a nasty wound in the forehead - the only other casualty - and his blighty took him all the way back to Australia. It was poor recompense, for a fine piece of work, and we lost the services of a very keen, plucky and popular officer.

And at that moment the telephone bussed and I heard the operator shout:-- "The Jerry's are attacking 'Jack'." He called my name, and I ran down the concrete tunnel. "The Jerries are on top of us -- hundreds of them," cried an excited voice from the outpost. "For God's sake, send out the Carriers." Immediately afterwards the line went "dead".

It had always been planned that in the event of such an eventuality young Sgt Reilly was to go out with two Carriers, and he lost no time in getting under way on his four thousand yard dash to "Jack". Then I ordered Rule who by this time had returned to his own positions about a mile from the wire to get his carrier out of its hole and to report to me as quickly as possible.

The Patrol defending the outpost was changed each night. Tonight, on account of a shortage of officers, Sgt Lally from B Coy was in command. He and six others would be in weapon pits while a Cpl and thirteen O/Rs formed a listening and protective patrol outside the post itself. At this stage the Old Man, phoned through that as soon as Rule arrived we were to go out and discover what was what. The two carriers crossed the bridge, and as we drove forward on the track to "Jack" we met Reilly returning with his two vehicles. On-board were the fourteen men from the listening patrol, and they were emphatic in their belief that "Jack" had been overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers, and despite heavy casualties on the mine-fields that protected the post. I ordered the Cpl to move in on foot with half his party and to report what he knew. Then, taking the remainder of his party, to assist us with their knowledge of the country by night - we were scarcely stiff of the mine-fields -- we went out with the four carriers in search of the seven men still unaccounted for.

Distances seemed to double themselves by night, and the track was never ending. At last we reached the edge of the mine-field, a hundred yards from the weapon pits which were now onimously quiet, and prepared to move forward on foot. As we did so, five large objects about a hundred and fifty yards away came to light and moved towards us. There was no mistaking the noise of the tanks, and these had a squeak in their tracks so reminiscent of our own "Matildas" that we decided we were face to face with big German Mark I V Tanks. Actually they were "Matildas" - captured from us during the unsuccessful frontier attack in June -- but this fact we did not know until morning.

We jumped aboard, skidded round and headed for home. We were enveloped in dust and the noise was terrific, but the familiar smell of cordite, assuring us that there was smoke intermingled in the dust, hastened our move. We knew our limitations against heavy tanks; in any case, it was now all too apparent that Lally and his men were beyond our help. At last satisfied that our superior speed had taken us to safer regions, we stopped. All was quiet. The enemy tanks had no doubt returned to "Jack" to stand by their roll of resisting any counter-attack our troops might care to launch.

There was consternation when we returned with our news. Enemy tanks had not been operating around Tobruk for many months, and few people believed us. Even the Old Man was inclined to be sceptical when I spoke to him over the phone. He reminded me that bushes and sangars had a reputation for moving by night when nerves are taut. I assured him that no bushes and sangars I knew of were mounted on cater-piller tracks. "Well, stand by for further orders", he said doubtfully.

I lay down on the cold, flea infested floor of the underground concrete post, and snatched some sleep while the going was good. But it was good for less than an hour; again I was called to the phone. "Did you say five tanks?" said the Old Man. "I knew you were wrong. There are nine out there".

"Johnno's" captured Italian officer had opened his heart. Our raid had anticipated the hun attack by an hour - the reason why the enemy had failed to lay down his defensive fire. Jerry had attacked with one Bn of special German Shock Troops, one Bn of Italian Infantry and nine Tanks and we could expect more trouble in the near future.

The Old Man rattled out a list of orders and instructions. Division had placed under his command six of the few precious "Mitildas" we still had in the fortress, and which were held against the day of another attempted German break through. I was to supply guides to meet the tanks lead them through our own defensive mine-fields and sit them down behind our forward positions. At dawn two carriers were to make a dash into no-man's-land to ascertain the latest position. Also at dawn the ten Vickers guns which the carrier Pl were operating as a side line were to be re-sited on new defensive tasks.

Far too much emphasis has been laid in this story of my own activities; far too little credit has been given to the work of my men. For them the uncertainty of war is a very definite test. A pl comd, when he issues his orders, keeps at the back of his mind his own methods of combating what he thinks may prove the unexpected factor; he knows what he is going to do next at every stage of the proceedings. His men have no such strengthening and sustaining thought, and while the leader is too busy with his present problems to worry, they have the opportunity to imagine, if they so desire, the worst. Or again, on night patrols, I had a compass in my hand and sufficient navigation confidence to feel that I could find in the darkness what we sought - whether it was a party of men or the bridge across the tank ditch; they on the other hand had to sit back and probably wonder what would happen should calculations go astray. Or yet again they had the really tiring work of maintaining the carriers and weapons before, during and after the operations. And now it was they who had to implement all these new orders. It was easy for me to give orders by runner or by telephone; it was my men who had to put effect to them - to go out to guide the tanks to service the carriers and the Bren guns for the dawn patrol or to pack up their Vickers and their personal gear and to be ready to shift at first light. But not a grumble was heard. They were a grand and loyal bunch of chaps - excellent and typical examples of 95% of the A.I.F.

With no apology for this digression, I return to the battle. The Old Man had hinted at a counter-attack; our 25-pounders were now laying down a heavy concentration on "Jack"; and a Pl from C Coy had already begun to move out to Sir Suesi which was to be established as a new listening-post.

The counter-attack did not eventuate! Our friend the Italian officer had revealed that a vigorous drive to overwhelm all our outposts was to be followed by a full-scale attack on Tobruk, and our High Command was not prepared to risk our few tanks to redeem the very slight success achieved by the jerry. The morning proved a lively one, with heavy artillery duels, and the Jerry tanks moving around in full sight of us, and firing on our forward posts. By noon I had finished all the jobs on hand, and returned to HQ to write a report on the raid and counter-raid.

This report had an amusing sequel. Our dawn patrol, led by Sgt Rule, had established the fact that two Jerry vehicles (one probably a tank) were knocked out on "Jack's" minefields and that our artillery had scored a direct hit on another tank. In due course a War correspondent reported that our tanks had sallied forth and in a fierce battle had destroyed three enemy tanks! In actual fact, of course, the only vehicles to cross the line were our little Carriers, and we make no bones about our inherent and rooted objections to engaging heavy tanks in battle. One does not go elephant-hunting with a peashooter. But this incident forever after affected our faith in all reports which did not carry the seal of "official communique".

I returned to my sangar late in the afternoon. As soon as he heard the Carriers grinding down the road, my grand batman Bill Goggin had the kettle on the boil. Yet another Tobruk episode was over.

"And so to bed."

War Diary

"SHE'S APPLES"

Early in April 1941 an attack by 'Jerry' on our Battalion defences on the perimeter of Tobruk was expected and hasty arrangements were made to strengthen the post we occupied by pushing in any available 'Iti' weapons.

The 2/28 Battalion at that time occupied posts R55 to R71, Battalion H.Q. being located at R64. "Apples", the Battalion Postal Orderly, with two members of the Battalion H.Q. office staff, occupied an open 'sanggar' near Bn H.Q. and this position was selected by the C.O. (Lt.-col J.E. Lloyd) as an ideal spot to place an 'Iti' 47 m.m. anti-tank gun.

Events moved fast and when a Corporal brought along the gun to run it into position the occupants raised a howl about having to shift from the position they had prepared for themselves as living and fighting quarters. Further consternation was caused when on enquiry from the Corporal as to what men were to man the gun the reply came "You are". "Apples" immediately saw red and ejaculated "I'm going to get an understanding on this - either I'm a postal orderly or an anti-<sup>tank</sup> gunner; I'm not both". The Corporal, continuing with the placing of the gun, reassured him and offered the 'crew' advice as to the handling, loading and firing of the weapon also how to squint down the barrel for a rough aim. The Postal Orderly's final response was "She's Apples".

Darkness was approaching so the three 'anti-tank gunners', reconciled to their unhappy position, placed the ammunition in a handy place ready for use.

Throughout the night they 'stood to' in turns, keeping a constant vigil and were greatly relieved when dawn broke. They had done a good job and were pleased the threatened attack on our post had not eventuated but had taken place on another sector.

The Corporal came along and during the 'once-over' found that in the hurry of the previous night the ammunition had not been primed! Imagine the feelings of the three 'anti-tank gunners' After the first dread thoughts had passed away out came the Postal Orderly's final remarks... "J----s, Wouldn't it \_\_\_\_\_. Anyhow, She's Apples".

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Submitted by WX5138 Sgt M.L. Brabazon,  
Bn Ord. Room Sgt,  
2/28 Aust Inf Bn.  
27 March 1942.



"S"17"

*Wednesday*  
*Tobrukh*

Approx a week before the attack on the Derna Road a mortar detachment consisting of Sgt Hothersall J.H, L/Cpl Grace T.H., Ptes Carr S, Stevens E, Woods V, Shove M, and Fisher K.R. One Italian mortar and 90 rounds were attached to No 8 Pl, commanded by Lieut W. Carlton, who detailed us to post S17 to act both as a rifle section and mortar detachment.

During the week L/Cpl Grace and I decided on the most suitable tasks and made ourselves familiar with the area. As the post was too prominent a mark for a mortar detachment I decided to build a mortar pit approximately 200 yards to the left flank and only use it by night.

During the week we discovered a dump of mortar ammunition but no fuses or charges for them. I sent a message to Bn HQ asking for fuses and charges but my message was misunderstood, and I was told to look for them myself.

I had been ordered not to fire any of my ammunition but since the mortar was strange to us and we had two sizes of bombs I fired four or five rounds of different charges to register my principle task and to discover the correct elevation as we were not supplied with a sight or clinometer.

With the first round the mortar recoil system was broken so I tied the bipod and barrel together with a chain and found that it would still be used.

On the morning of the attack I was ordered to be ready to move at 1000 hrs so I had the stores packed. While waiting to be picked up we became uneasy about a dust haze on the horizon and so decided to mount mortar and prepare a few rounds in what was commonly known as the flea hole.

Presently two 15 cwt trucks dashed up and passed through the fence at Post S 15 so I went down to investigate and was told by an Indian Cavalry man "enemy tanks". Dark objects appeared on the horizon so I hurried back to my post.

Approximately 30 vehicles drove towards the fence and when they came within range I opened fire. Twelve trucks stopped and unloaded the troops, the remainder turned about and drove out of range. All that day I fired on any concentrations of troops in my view and prevented the trucks being removed. As I was handicapped by lack of ammunition 8 trucks made their escape.

During the afternoon a spotter plane located us and directed an artillery barrage without success. Later a machine gun was mounted on the escarpment and succeeded in firing three bursts into the pit; luckily the crew were drinking afternoon tea around the side and no one was injured. I rigged across and fired two or three rounds at the MG and dislodged them. At approximately 2300 hrs since I had only 16 rounds saved for a dawn attack and our position had been found, I decided to occupy Post S 17 itself. I divided the crew into two sections to occupy the two pits and L/Cpl Grace to operate the mortar until ammunition was exhausted, then take charge of one rifle pit. I set the detachment to work shifting the gear and walked down to 8 Pl HQs, to get information. I was ordered to be ready to move off at 0100 hrs walking due East and bearing slightly South in order to contact 8 Pl. We were ordered to carry everything possible and destroy what was left.

At 0300 hrs I took the detachment down to 8 Pl HQs to ascertain the cause of the delay. Here we discovered the remainder of the Pl and I contacted Capt Northwood. I was reprimanded for carrying out my orders and deserting my post and was ordered back to it. I took the detachment back and sent Pte M. Shove to A HQs. to act as guide when and if the truck should arrive. At 0430 hrs Pte Shove stopped the truck at our post and was reprimanded for it and the truck ordered on. At 0500 hrs a truck returned into which we loaded our gear and as there was no more room we were told that a truck was at A Coy HQs. Arriving at the Coy HQs no truck or persons were visible so we proceeded to walk back along the road where we were overtaken by a convoy of three trucks and picked up.

Subsequently Pte E Stevens was evacuated for flea bites sustained in the flea hole.

(sgd) WX7594 J.H. HOTHERSALL Sgt.

2/28 AUST. INF. BN.

THROUGH THE EYES OF A FIGHTING SOLDIER - FIRST ATTACK ON  
POST S7.

It was the 27 day of July and the year was nineteen forty one, Tobruk, that much lauded and very battered town lay sprawled on the Mediterranean coastline of North Africa. Despite the blanketing night the defenders were watchful and wary, ready for the night raiders with their deadly loads.

The improvised lamp, constructed from a jam tin filled with captured Italian diesel oil and with a piece of four by two stuck in it, gave off a fitful smoky light in the interior of Posts S8's concrete dungeon. Half a dozen men of 7 platoon A Coy, 2/28 Bn with heads of perspiration starting out on their foreheads were sprawled about on the hard concrete floor. They tried to appear indifferent to the curtain of mortar bombs that were exploding in the vicinity and the rattle of machine gun fire but their tensed shoulders and features belied the show of indifference. At last Tom Appleyard spoke up breaking the silence.

"Damn the Jerry", he shouted viciously, "He always starts this racket when our rations parties are out".

Nobody answered. He never expected them to. A slow ten minutes ticked by on leaden wings. The enemy fire gradually dropped away and ceased altogether. I rose to my feet and picked my way along the gear-littered, darkened corridor to the rear fighting pit, or rather to where it once stood before it ran into a shell from one of the "Bardia Bill's" tribe. The ration party were beginning to arrive. A water tin banged against another with an intensified metallic sound and a stream of multi-coloured tracers spewed from a hidden gun on the salient, sending them to ground for a while. They passed me on their way in, one by one, panting a little from the exertion of their eight hundred yards hike with mortar bombs and machine guns making the trek a trifle uncomfortable. An occasional jest was passed to be answered in the same strain and now as I look back I treasure that absolute comradeship that only front line conditions and experience could have welded so closely.

The evening meal, rather belated as the time was after midnight, was served in the dungeon. At its completion my shift and I went forward to the forward Vickers gun pit to relieve the other sentries. After a few words with Cpl Roy Warren, who assured me that everything was alright and quiet, I had time to observe the scene in front; a scene that had grown all too familiar. To the left lay the salient, its dark bulk outlined against the lighter hue of the Libyan night. Directly in front roughly a thousand yards away, a slight bump marked the enemy occupied position known as S7. To the right on a gradual rise that stretched away into nothingness was feature 155, noted to those who knew for its anti-tank and long range mortar fire.

The night was dark and quiet, save for an occasional intrusion on the silence by the spasmodic throb of Hun planes high overhead and I felt a glow of satisfaction as I saw the stars reflected in the oily surface of the Vickers, its snub nose pointed aggressively in the enemies direction.

At last the shift was finished and we went below. The time was roughly 0230 hrs when my shift, tired and weary, bedded down in the positions recently vacated by our relief and by 0300 hrs everything was quiet.

About this time in S10, which was A Coy HQs another scene was beginning to unfold. The sleepy signaller lolling with the headphones on was pushed into wakefulness by the sound of Colonel Lloyd, 2/28 Bn Commanding Officer's voice seeking speech with Capt Northwood; A Coys Commander, who was soon on the spot. The following conversation ensued:- Colonel Lloyd:- "A patrol from the 2/32 Bn has just returned from a reconnaissance in the vicinity of Post S6 and the watertower. No enemy activity was seen and their report expressed the belief that Post S6 was not occupied by the Hun. What is your opinion regarding this?".

Captain Northwood:- "Posts S6 and S7 and the water tower are are undoubtedly occupied by the enemy. Ever since we arrived in this area we have been subjected to intense mortar and machine gun fire from this region".

Having gained the information he required and the usual courtesies having been exchanged, the C.O. rang off and Capt Northwood returned to his work. Exactly one hour and forty minutes elapsed before he was once again summoned to the phone. It was the C.O. with orders from Bde, which briefly condensed ran thus:- "Brigade has sent the following order that you are to send a party of men to reconnoitre the area we mentioned before and occupy Post S7 if possible".

The time was now 0440 hrs and Capt Northwood realised that speed was the essence of the contract if the occupation of S7 was to be effected before daylight. With all haste he despatched a message to Lieut Steve McHenry of "D" Coy telling him to take ten men and report to Post S8 in readiness to particulars in the stunt. Then calling his runner Sam Fry they ran with all haste to Post S8.

With the arrival of Capt Northwood and the contents of his message becoming known, things began to hum. Lieut Frank Taylor, seven Pl commander had been chosen to lead our troops and a tense air of expectancy prevailed as the names of the ten chosen personnel who were to accompany him were ready out:- Cpl Peter Rooke, L/Cpl Chick Liddilow, Ptes Jack Hunter, Soapy Ovens, Ted Appleyard, Jack Rowe, Tony Giblett, Digger Wahrton, George Masters and Percy Lillee. After this both officers went into a close consultation and some little time later, Cpl Warren and myself were informed that a preliminary fire on the enemy positions was not desirable but we were to open up if Lieut Taylor ran into a spot of bother and was pinned down. Meanwhile the chosen personnel were hastily checking over their equipment, grenades, arms, emergency rations and water. This being completed they repaired to the front fighting pit from where they were going to push off.

It was pretty near daylight when I went up to the pit and joined the waiting group. Lieut Taylor seemed rather perturbed as he kept glancing at his watch. Finally he issued his final instruction. "I'm sorry chaps but some how or other our support from DON Coy has not arrived; that means we will have to go through with the whole thing ourselves. Chick, you will take five men and clear 'white knoll' (an enemy OP) then move across and meet me on the escarpment. I will take the balance of the patrol and move across direct to S7. One thing I must impress on you before we go is, if we strike serious trouble and are separated or forced to retire, then each man we make his way back to our lines as best he can. I shall be the last to leave. Any questions? No! well! - good luck!"

Some faces as could be expected were rather strained and white but in all lines of determination were deeply etched.

"Prepare to leave!"

Everybody tensed; a couple of feeble jokes were cracked, we all laughed in a nervous jarring sort of way and then they were off; shadowy figures striding through the fast disappearing morning mist, to God knows what.

I returned to my own Vickers to "stand to" and here Billy Jose my off-sider joined me. Together we followed the fortunes of our mates. Looking back at it now in a personal sort of way, the sight of those gallant lads going resolutely forward rather takes my breath away. We knew that both S7 and S6 were well and truly occupied. We had had material evidence of this every day and night since our arrival in the Post over a week before. The post itself almost blown out of existence, bore mute testimony to this fact. The lads had now reached the crest of the salient and with nerves taut we waited for the spasmodic chatter of Jerries Spandaus to shatter the morning stillness. The silhouetted figures disappeared over the top. Five. Ten minutes passed. Then quite clearly came the steady beat of a Bren Gun, the purring of Tommy guns mingling with the heavy throb of the Spandaus and Bredas. Mortars too began to burst in the vicinity which our troops had so recently vacated and in next to no time the peace of the morning was turned into a bedlam of noise. More enemy guns entered the fray. It was at this stage that Capt Northwood who had assumed command of the Post during the Pls Commander's absence, gave the order "Open fire". Both Cpl Warren and myself knew that it would be dangerous to our own troops owing to the long wide beaten zone of the Vickers to fire on S7 itself so we elevated and aimed the weapons on known positions in the rear of that particular post in the hope of quieting some of their guns. Soom the melodious throbbing of the Vickers, pleasant to any machine gunners ear, added their note to the noise of battle. The troops of Artillery that had been placed at our disposal for the purpose of the stunt, also opened up from way back in the blue line, the sharp crack of their muzzle blasts echoing and re-echoing up the wadis and the whine of their projectiles going overhead. I learnt later that the purpose of the Vickers and Artillery opening

up, was to draw the enemy fire from Lieut Taylor's group onto Post S8. In this we succeeded admirably, for enemy shells and mortars flew past in quick retaliation. Soon clouds of flame, flecked dust and smoke were rolling over our fighting pits, some times obscuring the enemy altogether. Hearing through this to try and observe the strike of my own bullets, I was able to see the Artillery shells bursting with great accuracy on and about S7.

Meanwhile Capt Northwood who had been observing proceedings through his binoculars saw that Lieut Taylor with six men had withdrawn to the shelter of a small cut that ran down on our side of the salient. Noting this and in order to give proceedings a chance to quieten down, he gave "cease fire". In obedience to this our Vickers crews left the pits which were fast becoming untenable and retired to the comparative shelter and safety of the dungeon. The Artillery also ceased and Jerry not willing to extend more of his ammunition than necessary likewise quit the battle.

At the cessation of the battle, Lieut Taylor and a group were seen creeping down the cut towards us. At the bottom of the feature they halted, apparently deciding whether to risk crossing the open ground, which might be dangerous or stay where they were, out of view of the enemy until nightfall which would be the safest but rather irksome. There hesitation did not last too long. Adopting the former course they began to move back, keeping in the lee of the salient as much as possible. Chick Liddilaw took the lead, searching the lines for booby traps and mines. The others followed at regular intervals with Lieut Taylor covering their departure and finally bringing up the rear. Without mishap or a single shot being fired at them they reached a deep weapon pit some thirty yards to the left front of our forward fighting pit. There, in response to shouted instructions they discarded their haversacks and equipment and rising to their feet, they traversed the intervening distance which was covered by Jerry fixed lines of fire, at a run and leapt in to the safety of the concrete pit.

Everybody's relief at the lucky escape was obvious. What had happened to the four other men we did not know; we could only hope that they were waiting somewhere for darkness to fall before returning, but under the circumstances it seemed rather a forlorn sort of hope.

The Pl commander produced a bottle of whisky, a veritable treasure in those dry dusty days of Tobruk, and we enjoyed a nip all round. After that the two officers were closeted together for sometime and it was not till later that I was able to obtain the first hand story from Lieut Frank Taylor himself.

"Well Joe!", he said after once again producing his whisky, "this stunt had rather a funny angle to it. Brigade believing that S7 was unoccupied gave the order for me to reconnoitre the area and occupy the Post if possible. On the other hand I knew darn well, in fact we all knew that before it was occupied there would be bloody fighting ahead. It was on this knowledge that I based my plan of operations. My difficulties were increased my three main problems. Firstly; the hasty decision to occupy the Post when it was almost daylight; secondly my boys had been on guard all night and consequently had to leave without food or rest and lastly the non-arrival of the Don Coy support made things extremely awkward. Still we had a job to do and as you know under strength though we were we went out to have a crack at it. Things went pretty well for a start. Chick cleared "White Knoll" and meanwhile we reached the crest of the salient and after moving some fifty yards further on, we struck a wadi that ran almost at right angles to the objective. It was from this spot that I intended to make my real assault on the Post. We went over the top in extended lines. It was broad daylight by now and I realised the hope of attaining the good surprised affect that I was counting on, was gone. We advanced at a steady jog but the ground was very broken and naturally the going was tough. A camouflaged staff car was parked alongside the enemy's post and a German officer with a wad of paper in his hand stood near surrounded by a crowd of Italians giving out orders for some such other thing. It was at this juncture that warning of our approach was given. The officer with one startled look in our direction, leapt into his car, reached top gear in five yards and vanished in a swirl of dust in the direction of Fort Lloyd. His crew shouting and gesticulating wildly scattered in disorder assisted by our Tommy guns. The Bren guns were by now engaging an enemy machine gun to the front, but unfortunately two guns, a heavy breche and a Spandau,

opened up, right on our left flank bring enfilading fire to bear on us. To make matters worse several mortars screened from our fire by a slight rise, joined in, their bombs bursting unpleasantly close. The situation became steadily worse as more guns entered the fray. It would have been suicidal to go on so I gave Cpl Rooke and his party the order to retire whilst I located Chick and his party. This withdrawal was a difficult move as bullets and shrapnel were flying everywhere. The battle grew more and more one-sided in fact it was beginning to look like the end when you Vickers chaps and the Artillery opened up. The affect was wonderful. It created a diversion and gave us the opportunity to quit the danger zone and make our way back by a devious route to the safety of the cut where you spotted us. Acting on Chick's advice we withdraw over the ground over which we had advanced and which he believed was partially concealed from enemy observation. What happened after that you know as well as I do." He stopped. "I wish I knew what had happened to my other chaps", he added as an afterthought.

His question remained unanswered till after dark that night, when word was received by runner that three men had arrived safely soon after the attack and had taken shelter in Post S9 alternative position. Word of this had not been able to reach us before owing to the telephone cable laid between S8 and the exchange at S10 being chopped to pieces by the heavy mortar fire. The other missing man George Masters crept in later still, stiff and exhausted. All day long in the blazing sun he had lain cramped up in a small shell hole between ours and the enemies lines, not daring to move owing to the vigilance of the enemy in this sector and any suspicious move would have brought fire to bear on the spot with unpleasant results to the occupant. In this spot, which had the reputation for being one of the hottest if not the hottest, sector on the whole perimeter, to get above the surface during the day was to ask for a sure ticket to hell.

Another interesting point was brought to light showing how a small trifle can make or mar an operation. The Don Coy support had arrived at S10 and had asked to be directed to 8. They did not stipulate Post S8 and unfortunately the soldier whom they asked, his identity is unknown, took it for granted that they meant 8 Pl which at that time were occupying S9 which was situated approximately 1000 yards to our right. Consequently when they arrived there and discovered their mistake the attack had already started and they were too late to be of any use. The small trifle was only the difference between Pl and Post but it could have had disastrous results.

That the attack had failed was to be regretted, but when I went on guard that night, the scene that met my eyes made me realize that Jerry had not escaped that morning's incident scot free. Neither was he feeling too sure of the vulnerability of his strong hold. The whole length of the salient was lit up by my relays of verrey-lights and in the distance, the stabbing finger of an enemy mobile search-light swept no-mans-land. Watching this must have aroused a lot of satisfaction in most of our soldier hearts. This was one of the times when you realised that this confounded and uncomfortable "stand to" idea hit both ways. A week later there followed two successive Coy attacks on the same objectives which were repelled, thus confirming our supposition that the post was strongly held.

Before I write finish to my story it is only right to add a tribute to the memory of the late L/Cpl "Chick" Liddilow. It was due to his courage, ability to notice things and guidance, that our forces were able to withdraw from their dangerous position without casualties. Ironically he met his death in a road accident in Palestine some nine weeks later.

(sgd). WX6080 Cpl J.T. WHITE.  
No 4 Pl 2/28 Aust Inf Bn. AIF.

*War Diary*

ATTACK ON S6 AND S7 BY "D" COY 2/28 AUST INF BN.

DURING DEFENCE OF TOBRUK.

During defence of TOBRUK many memorable feats of arms and deeds of valour were carried out by units adopting an offensive policy harassing the enemy continuously, by fighting patrols and attacks on Posts. One of the outstanding attacks on enemy posts in the Salient was made by "D" Coy 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

The Salient was the line running East to West where the enemy penetrated the Perimeter Defences in their original large scale attack on TOBRUK. Owing to the tenacity and offensive spirit of the Australian Troops, the enemy were unable to take advantage of their initial success and were forced on the defensive, to such an extent that it was felt by the powers that be that only German troops were capable of holding the Salient. The Hun was forced to devise every conceivable means of fixed line machine gun fire, mortar and artillery defensive fire, and elaborate anti-personnel booby-traps and mine fields.

As can be readily seen the holding of the Posts in the Salient was regarded as of major importance by the Germans, to be used as a spear-head for a future attack on TOBRUK; and any infiltration by our troops could possibly mean the progressive recapture of the Salient.

Posts S6 and S7 were situated on high ground in a commanding position on the West side of the Salient and were strongly held. The men in the Posts were armed with numerous machine guns, machine-pistols, rifles and grenades and had excellent coordinated artillery and mortar defensive fire support. In addition the Posts were supported on either flank by a line of sangars holding anti-tank and machine-gun sections. In cooperation with the Posts, the sections holding these sangars laid down a fixed line fire in a system of interlacing and covering the area of advance to Posts S6 and S7. This fixed line, mortar and artillery fire, also pinned down 2/28 Bn personnel holding forward Posts in the Salient. Taking all these factors into consideration, an attack on these Posts, looked a pretty tough proposition.

The Bn felt that it had been paid a compliment in being selected to carry out this highly dangerous, but important task. The Coy selected for the job were as keen as mustard to show their mettle, after months of patrols and continuous bombing and strafing from the air.

The attack took place on the night 2/3 Aug 41. Start line tapes were laid by three members of the Intelligence Section, for the three Platoons taking part in the attack. The start line for 17 Platoon was laid under heavy machine fire and bearing giving line of advance to Post S6 had to be altered a few minutes before zero hour, to miss fixed line machine gun fire from three machine guns, the Platoon was advised of altered bearing, and given positions of machine guns on reaching start line.

On Platoons moving over start lines our artillery put down a terrific barrage on S6 and S7 and adjoining sangars. The enemy immediately replied with a heavy mortar and artillery defensive barrage, covering area of advance and the three forward posts in the Salient held by us. The intensity of the barrage laid down was so heavy that it seemed no human being would live to tell the tale. This applied to both ourselves and the enemy and I feel sure that the supreme thrill of battle, ran through the Bn as never before in our defensive roll in TOBRUK.

No. 17 Platoon moving towards their objective S6 encountered a protecting screen of mortar fire and advanced through a mine-field and numerous booby-traps, which caused a number of casualties. But undaunted the remainder advanced to within fifty yards from S6 under the glare of dozens of verrey-lights. By this time they were so reduced in numbers they were forced to withdraw.

Cont/.

No. 16 Platoon under command Lieut COPPOCK advanced on S7 through similar conditions as that of No. 17 Platoon, receiving numerous casualties. On reaching the Post the remainder forced their way in with guns blazing. The Platoon commander arrived in the Post with only three of his men. The Platoon commander was now ready to fire the success signal, which would bring in Lieut McHENRY with his Platoon to consolidate. Imagine the dismay and chagrin when Lieut COPPOCK discovered that the sand-bag which was tied to his shoulder strap containing verrey-light cartridges had been shot away. Success or failure could hinge on the loss of these cartridges. Unable to fire the success signal Lieut COPPOCK decided to come out of the Post and procure reinforcements. On leaving the Post Lieut COPPOCK was badly shell shocked and brought into the RAP.

In the meantime Lieut McHENRY with his Platoon had moved over the start line, and got into position ready to move forward on the success signal being fired.

Capt CONWAY the Coy Commander wondering why success signal was not fired, decided after waiting some time to move forward to Post S7 and investigate. Everything seemed reasonably quiet and he decided to go into the Post, arriving shortly before Lieut McHENRY and balance of his Platoon, which had been scattered and had suffered a number of casualties by mortar fire.

During this period heavy fighting had been going on and our casualties were slowly mounting. With the arrival of Lieut McHENRY and party, Capt CONWAY'S gallant band was increased to nineteen, which included one dead and seven wounded. Two signallers attached to 16 Platoon were in Post S7 on the arrival of Capt CONWAY and had been holding the Post awaiting reinforcements. The Coy Commander immediately on consolidation fired success signal, time was getting on and it was now 0520 hrs and the light was getting stronger every minute.

It was found impossible at this time to move carrying party forward with ammunition and food and this had to be delayed until evening. Owing to series of circumstances over which we had no control it was not definitely known whether our men held the Post, and it was not until night-fall when signallers WHITE and DELFS made a dramatic getaway from the Post under enemy observation and fire that we were certain we held the Post.

In the meantime Capt CONWAY is in possession of S7 with 19 men, which now included 9 very badly injured and some shock cases, also seven German prisoners. Early morning of 3 Aug the Germans counter attacked the Post, but this determined little force beat all attacks and held on grimly all day. In the evening the enemy again strongly attacked our now tired and exhausted men and overran the Post. The enemy had put down a terrific barrage previous to and during his attack and it was impossible to move troops forward to the rescue. During these attacks on the Posts and in the swallowing up of our boys in Post S7 the Coy suffered 97 casualties in killed, and wounded and prisoners of war.

As can be readily seen the success or failure of the holding of S7 did rest on the loss of Lieut COPPOCK'S verrey-light cartridges. The firing of the success signal on his immediate arrival in the Post would have meant the carrying party with food, ammunition and reinforcements would have been able to move forward. Such is the ~~role~~ of War, but the bravery, grit and determination of all those who took part in the attack will live on in the annals of the AIF.

The attack on these Posts brought not only collective honour on the 2/28 Bn but individual honour to three members of the unit. A member of the Intelligence Section, L/Cpl NUTT H.B. was awarded the M.M. and two signallers B HENDRY and F HEATH the Commander in Chief's Card.

*Lieut J. B. NUTT M.M.*

B.H.Q. 2/28 Aust Inf Bn, AIF.

An account on their experiences in the salient at Tobruk on the 3-3 August 41 as told by Signallers Delfs ("Yackem") and White ("Pinkie") to L/Cpl J.D. Costello.

We had an idea there was something in the wind when, the day before the attack, we were told to take a coil of cable and a phone out to S9, one of the posts in the salient held by us, but it was not until a few hours before the balloon was due to go up that we were told by the sig pl Comdr, Lieut Ellis, that we were to be attached to 16 pl of D Coy, which was to attack S7 one of the Jerry posts. We didn't know much about the details of the plan, except that another platoon was to attack S6 also. Our job was to establish communication after the post was taken. We were instructed to do this by carrying out a field phone and uncoiling the cable to connect it as we advanced with the platoon.

The boys were mostly excited at the chance of getting a smack at some of the Jerries who had been worrying us with mortar and machine gun fire for so long, and both of us were quite bucked at being picked to be in on the show.

We got out from S9 to the start line about 3 o'clock and lay there in the dark waiting for the word to move. We had been told our arty could plaster the positions beforehand, but we never expected anything like what did happen. When the guns started you could look back and see the whole of the skyline alight with the flashes. The continuous roar of exploding shells around S6 and S7 was deafening. The Jerries opened up with everything they had on our posts too and some of their mortar bombs were falling very close to us. Some of our own shells landed a bit too short and we got to hoping they wouldn't fall any shorter. Somehow your own shells put the wind up you worse than Jerry's.

When the barrage lifted and the word was given the platoon advanced in sections in extended order. Pinkie carried the phone and we had the reel on a rod between us, paying it out as we went. We stuck close behind the platoon commander, Lieut Coppock. We were under mortar and machine gun fire all the way. It was pretty dark but we could see that men were falling on both sides of us, while, as we found later, Mr Coppock actually had his haversack shot off him. As the pair of us were within a yard of each other it looked almost a certainty one at least of us would cop it. We were able to speak to each other and arrange that if one stopped anything the other would take the phone and cable and continue to move with the platoon.

There seemed to be very few of us left when we came up against the wire around the post and started to crawl under it. Here we expected some fight, but when we stumbled into the post there was no opposition and we only found nine Jerries there - three dead and half a dozen, of whom four were wounded, cowering in the deepest part. The rest must have got away in the darkness.

Immediately we got into the post we connected up the phone with the cable, but the line was dead. We had no other way of communicating with rear and Mr Coppock had lost his Verrey cartridges in his haversack and could not put up the distress signal.

We hopped in and started to help to prepare for a counter attack. We got Jerries' sand bags across to the other side of the post and collected their Tommy Guns and ammo to be used. There was a big spandau there that we tried to get pointing the right way but it was on a fixed mounting and we could not shift it.

Capt Conway, the company commander and Lieut McHenry with two or three more men arrived in the post about 5.30 carrying a box of ammo. It was a marvel they got through, as at this time the mortar and machine gun fire was particularly heavy. Capt Conway had his Verrey Cartridges with him and fired the success signal about two hours later than it would ordinarily have been sent.

It was just cracking daylight when the fire eased off and someone yelled "Here they come".

We peered out and could see men crawling under the wire from the direction of the Jerry positions. We opened up with Bren and rifles. The Bren jammed and would only fire single shots. We could see well for 100 yards and none of the Jerries got much



closer than that. We bowled them over practically a man for every shot. They were game, as they kept coming until there wasn't a man left standing. Two or three wounded may have crawled away under the wire. Comparing notes afterwards the lads reckoned they had accounted for about 60 men altogether.

This bucked us up a bit, but things didn't look so good in full daylight. We hopped out several times and brought in some of our wounded whom we could hear calling from where they had fallen during the attack, but the machine gun fire was generally so heavy that it was impossible to get a head above ground. The mortar and artillery fire was also pretty solid. One shell landed right in one end of the post, blowing in the passage. The chaps had to clear away the wreck to get out of the dugout and this end of the post was abandoned.

There was nothing to do but to keep your head down and take it, try and do a little to ease the wounded, some of whom were in a very bad way, clean the weapons ready for business and hope help could be got to us from the rear. We weren't sure that they understood at rear how things were at the post - we found afterwards they weren't sure whether we or the Jerries had the post as the attack on S6 had been beaten off and our success signal had been so late and had been followed by such a lot of fire and Pinkie volunteered to try and get back with a message, but Capt Conwat considered there would be no hope of getting through until after dark. We were wishing we had brought a lamp instead of the phone as we could then have talked to rear.

About 4 o'clock there was a very heavy burst of mortar fire. We thought it would be the start of another attack and were up ready for business as soon as it eased, but the Jerries didn't show up.

At sundown there were only seven men on their feet and 10 wounded still alive, and the seven didn't feel exactly fresh or chirpy.

It was decided that, to give a better chance of getting a message through, both of us would attempt to get to rear with information about how things stood at S7 and what was required. As soon as it was dark enough the pair of us set off crawling on ~~our~~ our stomachs, the only way of having some chance of dodging the stuff that was flying around in the open. We started to follow the cable we had laid in advance, but soon found it had been cut to pieces by the mortar and shell fire, so we had to find our own way. We must have covered over 300 yards on our bellies, though it seemed a lot further than that, before we got out of the fixed lines of the machine guns and it was good enough to stand up and cover the rest of the distance. We got right up to the wire at S9 and were getting through it when a couple of challenges were called out and we heard rifle bolts rattle. Our nicknames were well known so there was no trouble in identifying ourselves and we were soon in the post and delivered the message to Lieut Waring. He told us to go to S10 to report to A Coy and ask for more men, and was starting to organise a party to go out to S7 when we left.

We had barely got to S10 and explained the position to Capt Northwood there when the Jerries started to plaster that post. We two thought it was nothing to what we had been getting at S7 but it looked as though it might be the start of an attack and the post had to stand to. As it turned out it must have been only to prevent help being sent to S7 which the Jerries attacked in force and overwhelmed only about an hour after we had left it. We missed by that much being wiped out or being marched, as some of the chaps we left there were, into a prison camp for the duration.

Submitted by WX6351 L/Cpl J.D. Costello  
2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

*War Diary*

INTRODUCTION TO WAR.

BY Sig. F.J. HEATH.  
H.Q., Coy 2/28 Bn.

Chapter 1. "Desert Training"

A Coy, 2/28 Bn. to which I was attached as a Sig., held a highly important position on the Derna Road where it passed through the perimeter defences, (of Tobruk).

Our chief bulwark of defence, was the deep wadi which took the place of the tank ditch which surrounds almost all other parts of the perimeter. A large cement bridge carried the Derna Road across the wadi, and this was in nice range of our No. 7 and 9 platoons who looked down upon it from their escarpment positions on either side of the road.

We had occupied this position only a few days, it being the second we occupied since our arrival in Tobruk a fortnight previous, and as it had been one of the "Comfy" cemented "iti" positions before Tobruk fell to the A.I.F. several months before, and was considerably better than the sangars and rock huts we'd lived at our first position, we were well satisfied to stay there to carry on our "desert training". How this "training" became the "dinkum" thing in a scant few hours and the beginning of a siege that would beat even that of Mafeking and make war history for ever, is the story I will endeavour to relate.

Chapter II. "Air-Raid"

It was approximately 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 9th April 1941, that we received our first close-up of a real good air-raid. I was sitting in a tank ditch in 7 Pl area, tearing stamps of old "iti" letters, when Jerry came over making for Tobruk township. There were some twenty-odd bombers and Fighters, and as they got within range of Tobruk, the ack-ack began its barrage and the sky seemed filled with black and white puffs of smoke from the bursting shells. One bomber which had laid its "eggs" and was climbing for safety, failed to escape the deadly fire of an ack-ack gun, and its tail was shot away. Immediately out of control, the doomed ship slipped into a long gliding dive, straight -- I could have sworn -- for the sand-bagged covered sangar in which I was crouched taking pot-shots with my rifle. The crew must have known their fate and as they had't time to bale out they did the next best thing - open the throttle and fire their guns to the last -- and with engines roaring and twin blue streaks coming from its guns, the plane came on at a speed which would be at least 250 m.p.h. I dropped into the bottom of the sangar just as the plane crashed with a terrific explosion. The petrol tanks caught fire instantly, and fragments of the plane and exploding bullets filled the air for a square 100 yards around.

The plane had crashed on the edge of the escarpment right among 7 Pl's sangars and weapon pits, and several blankets airing close to a sangar fifty yards from where I was crouched were burnt to ashes by the burning wreckage.

The twin-engines were thrown a good hundred and fifty yards from the place the plane crashed, and the crew were just horribly mangled and burnt masses of pulped flesh, where they ended up in a barbed-wire entanglement at the scarp bottom.

So this was war! the plane and two men -- one minute a graceful powerful man-made wonder, its occupants strong, fearless specimens of a powerful nation -- the next, nothing but smouldering, twisted masses of charred steel bones and flesh! it was horrible! and just as the crowd cheers with crazy excitement as two good horses finish neck and neck in some classic race at home, so did we, when that splendid plane came to such a terrible end! the human is a strange creature, isn't he?

## CHAPTER 3

### "STAND TO"

It was nearing sun-down that day, when we first heard the distant firing of Jerry's guns their low vibrant "crumph", at first because of our ignorance of their significance, were not at all disconcerting, but as it dawned on us what it was-- and meant -- there was great excitement.

Notice I say "excitement", by no means do I mean "panic", but just as one feels when he is up for twenty quid at "two up".

Every man immediately every man donned his equipment, and men stood at their posts ready for their first crack at the enemy.

The fact that we were equipped with the bare necessary training gear, and, if it came to a point, rifle and bayonet was all we had against tanks, Mortars, artillery and MGs did not perturb the boys much as they watched carefully into the rays of the setting sun for their enemy to appear. They joked about it in fact in their usual Aussie way -- "Tell my Mother I went down fighting" and "Betch you wish you hadn't paid that dollar back you owed me!" Such was the contempt these hard cased "A" Coy lads showed for their chance of never seeing the sinking sun rise again.

About nine P.M. Tobruch was set upon from the air, and it was lovely to watch. No fireworks display could have been half so pretty or extensive. Green, red and white tracer wove a web in the sky above the town, as a couple of naval vessels' Ack Ack defensive fire from sea combined with the Tommies effort from on shore, and once more Jerry was made to under stand Tobruch could give it as well as take it. He lost some five or six planes in that raid.

The firing of artillery we had heard at sun-down, turned out to be the running of the "Benghazi Handicap", as it was later nicknamed.

Our 20th and 26th Brigades, who were left behind to garrison Benghazi after a earlier successful campaign, retreated to Tobruch, when the Hun made his new drive and so close was he on their heels, that it became a running fight for the tail end of our retreating force, and it was this fighting that we could hear.

All that night, our retreating forces came through from what was to be "No mans Land", into the safety of Tobruch's perimeter, where they could make their stand and fight like a cornered rat could -- and would! They were soon to become "Rats", too-- "Rats of Tobruch". Their gallant stand against overwhelming odds and stark privation, will always be remembered and honoured.

"A" Coys HQ was quartered in a small stone pump-house -, situated on the side of an escarpment a few hundred yards to the left of the Derna Road and back from the wire about 500 yards. In this diminutive building were camped the OC, 2 i/c, five Sigs, and two pumpers (Transport Drivers who knew how to make an engine go at any rate!)

No - one had too much sleep that night, as by now it was practically a "Stand To" all the time. The pumpers worked hard on their stubborn engine endeavouring to get as much precious water pumped up to the water point inside the perimeter, the noisy old engine making it difficult for the Sigs to hear anything coming over the wire, filling the entire room with discomforting smoke and smells.

During the night the CO Lt-col Lloyd, issued orders for all Coy Comds to be at Bn HQ, next morning by 8.30 A.M. to attend a conference. Major Henning accordingly departed for this early meeting next morning, leaving Capt Northwood in charge, for, as it turned out, our "Zero" day. This splendid officer, throughout the following anxious hours, won for ever the favour of his men with his morale lifting cheerfulness, coolness, and consideration for the men themselves.

When morning came, everything seemed as quite as usual. At dawn, a few high level bombers came over and dropped bombs on Tobruk, but the defiant ack-ack barrage kept them too high to do any serious damage.

We had our usual breakfast of sausages and beans (what a luxury they were to be a month or so later!).

About 8.30 a.m., Jerry showed himself. His column approached along the road, A.F.Vs., tanks, and troop-carrying vehicles, and I am sure he thought it a case of passing through Tobruk just as a motorist would pass through a village. But he soon found out different.

Our engineers had mined the bridge, and as soon as the approaching tanks looked a bit too close for comfort, they blew it up. The explosion made our building shudder, and though we were told the bridge would be going in ten minutes before it did the terrific crash made us all jump, so I imagine the shock the driver's of the leading tanks received was rather a severe one.

The fun really commenced then. Simultaneously with the blowing up of the bridge, five lorry-drawn guns of the Royal Horse Artillery came full speed up the Derna Road to our aid. By this time Jerry's tanks had opened up with their two-pounders and heavy M.Gs.

The battery of R.H.A. drew level with our hut and then swung off the road to the right on to the open flat plain.

No time was lost as they lined up about a hundred yards apart across the flat. There was no time or opportunity for them to even dig pits to conceal their guns. No sooner did the trucks drawing the guns come to a halt, than their crews speedily jumped into action.

In less than five minutes they were making their presence felt on Jerry's tanks. In the first three shots, one tank was put out of action, and by the time all five guns had opened up, the tanks had had enough. Dispersing, they withdrew in a circling movement, some towards the beach on our right, the rest up along the perimeter towards our C Coy, who were on our left flank.

Those which circled towards the beach, soon found that the big wadi that stretched along between them and us, had no place suitable for them to cross, while those which had gone along towards C Coy, soon found the Tank Bitch too effective a barrier for them to gain access either.

His tanks thwarted, Jerry turned his attention to our gallant Little battery of 25 pounders.

From their advantageous position of higher ground and protection from view, and with the direction and range of fire given to them by a low-flying recon plane which they sent over, the Jerry Artillery soon got into our guns.

For sheer cold guts, those R.H.A. boys took some beating. They were in the open with no cover what-so-ever, yet when Jerry's shells began bursting all round them, they stuck to their guns. Watching from the window of our hut only a few hundred yards distant we could see the flash of shells, bursting it seemed, right under their guns, yet, as the dust cleared for a few seconds, they were still firing shot after shot.

But so great were Jerry's advantages it was possible for only one outcome of such a duel -- the silence of our guns!

The gun nearest the road was the first to go. A direct hit on the ammunition carrier caused a terrible explosion and a blinding flash.

There came screams of agony from the wounded crew. One had a leg blown almost off. The ambulance-men ran towards them, but were driven back by the merciless fire from a heavy type of machine gun.

Soon, every one of the five guns were silenced, either by lack of crew, or the gun itself disabled.

They had done a wonderful job though. I feel sure those same guns, by opening up so timely, and doing such damage to his tanks and transports, gave Jerry the idea that we were not only stronger than we really were, but also ready for any offensive he may try. If he had only guessed the truth!!!

But whatever Jerry thought, he lost his confidence of taking Tobruk that day, from the Derna Road front any rate, and like any adversary with his confidence shaken, Jerry lost the day.

All that day, he kept our heads down with shells, mortars, and M.G. fire, but he didn't try to rush us.

In the pump-house, we could hear the reports of Jerry's guns, and the whine of the shells in flight, but though some landed uncomfortably close, it was only M.G. fire they directed right onto us, and though this tended to make it extremely risky to peer through the sandbagged window, it was otherwise harmless.

He must have wanted to keep the pump-house intact for his own purposes after capturing the Tobruk perimeter, for he could easily have wiped it off the face of the earth had he wished to do so. Thank Heaven he was so confident of himself that day. !

Orders came through that we were to hold our position at all cost. If necessary, to the last bullet and the last man. The men not only met this grim order with the complacidity of veteran fighters, but were all for going out to have a crack at the enemy beyond the wire.

Dinner time came, and though none of us were in the mood for eating, Capt Northwood pointed out that it would be advisable to force ourselves to eat something, so we opened a tin of bully per every three men and washed it down with a mouthful of water from our water bottles.

During the afternoon, word came through that a Bn was coming up to relieve us at 10 p.m. that night, so as long as Jerry started nothing, we were content to lay doggo ourselves, and so the day wore on.

#### Chapter V. "We are Relieved"

Time dragged on, and the sun, in its fall towards the western horizon, seemed almost, to be caught in some vast invisible net that kept it suspended there in the sky so slow did it seem to descend. The continual crash and whistle of shells and bullets outside kept up, and at any time we expected a shell to come crashing into our little shelter and so bringing the war to an abrupt end for most of us.

But our luck held good. Night fell, and though we expected an attack at every moment, none came.

The hour came when our relief was to have arrived, but none turned up, and as the hours crawled by and they still failed to arrive, more anxious thoughts filled our minds.

A Sig. crept outside, and from the shelter of the hut wall, flashed a code message by hand-torch in the general direction whence our relief was to approach from. The message contained our location and identity, but as it was sent by "F" procedure we were not to know whether it had been received or not. Later, we found out that our relief had been held down by severe enemy fire, and had read our message as they lay in cover out on the flat to the side of the road.

By 3 a.m. we were ready to leave. Our relief had arrived and had taken over.

A full moon had risen late that night, and the whole flat down where we had to embark on the transports, was bathed in its silvery light.

One truck, a big "Iti" five ton diesel, refused to start, and had to be towed by another of its noisy kind, around in circles, before it came to life. The noise was hair-raising under such circumstances. At any moment Jerry must surely hear, and bring his terrible mortars and machine guns to bear on us. Had he done this, our casualties most surely would have been high, for, loaded up as the lads were with their packs and gear, and out on that moon-drenched, protectionless flat, they'd have been helpless.

But again luck was on our side, and with something like fifty men and their gear on each of the three trucks, we set on our way to a quieter section of the perimeter, leaving the Derna Road in the capable hands of the 2/24 Bn.

That trip was wretched. The trucks were over-crowded by at least twenty men each, and the early-morning air was bitterly cold. Yet for four solid hours of being cramped, cold, and miserable, the boys did not complain but made light of their troubles by even singing old songs of their beloved homeland.

At last, about 7 a.m., and the sun just rising, we stopped and were told to dis-embark.

Only waiting to obtain his own bed-roll as it was thrown off the truck, each man found a suitable spot to unroll it and was asleep in a few minutes. It was the first rest any of us had had for some 48 hours, 48 hours of anxious alertness, and now that the strain had been relieved from us, reaction set in leaving us justly fatigued.

Chapter VI.    "Conclusion"

We had won through on bluff and good luck, and had finally left the danger zone, but it was a useful initiation, and gave the 2/28 Bn. and others who had a likely experience at that time, just a sufficient taste of victory to make them as hard a nut to crack as Jerry found out later, when, more suitably equipped, they took their turns in every "Hot Spot" in the Tobruk Perimeter in the six months that followed prior to their successful evacuation back to peaceful Palestine.

.....

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O. No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
16 APRIL 42. (630 DAY).

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 322

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN.

1. MUDDING OF TENTS

Mudding of tents within Bn HQ and Coy areas will be carried out and completed by Saturday 18 April 42. R.S.M. will be responsible for Bn HQ personnel tents.

2. RECOVERY OF VEHICLES

Cases have occurred recently of units obtaining assistance from other LADs for the recovery of vehicles.

Vehicles of this Bde will only be recovered by 76 L.A.D.  
(Ref 24 Aust Inf Bde R.O. No 143.)

3. SECURITY

The attention of all ranks will be drawn to the following security measures :-

Entry of Buildings etc by Civilians

Hawkers, shoe shine boys, loiterers or any other civilians except authorised unit interpreters will NOT be permitted to enter any office, building or tent occupied or used by units. It is the responsibility of all ranks to discourage loiterers and to report any suspicious behaviour of civilians or military personnel to an officer, preferably their unit security officer.

4. STANDING ORDERS FOR SECURITY

1. Standing orders for security will be amended by addition of para 48 (q):

"Under no circumstances will the arms of drivers or other individuals be left on unattended vehicles. When leaving vehicles for any purpose whatsoever, drivers and passengers will carry their arms with them."

All Officers will amend copies on issue to them and promulgate the addition to all ranks.

2. Until further notice the certificate required by para 50 will be submitted 'weekly' and NOT 'daily'.

5. WATER SUPPLY

It has been noticed that personnel other than those authorised to do so, have been drawing water from the storage tanks at cook-houses in HQ Coy area.

This practice will cease immediately and in future disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.

Personnel will draw water from water trucks between the hours of 1700 and 0745 only.

P.T.O.

PART 1B

1. APPOINTMENT

WX7516 Cpl Montague W. (AAOC Att.) HQ Coy Apptd L/Sgt 16 April 42.

2. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX7572 Sgt MacDonald J.H.R. HQ Coy 13 Apr 42.  
WX4008 Pte Finkelstein W.G. " 14 Apr 42.

3. PUNISHMENT

WX10026 Pte Humphries J. B Coy Failed to appear on parade.  
Admonished, 14 Apr 42.

4. MARCHED IN AND TAKEN ON STRENGTH

WX6887 Lieut Keogh J.D. A Coy Marched in from 24 A.I.T.B. and  
taken on strength. 10 Apr 42.  
Regimental seniority as  
from 15 Feb 42. (This cancels  
notifications appearing in R.O.  
Nos. 320 and 321.)

5. TRANSFER OUT

WX5392 Pte Maher L. A Coy To 2/1 A.F.W. 15 Apr 42.

*Leues Lamb*  
Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Oftrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Ech,  
Notice bd, File, Guard Commander,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D & 10 Pl (2 each).

NOTICE

FOUND: One leather waist belt. Owner may have same by applying to  
Bn HQ and describing.



# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit.)

**PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.**

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1	:	:
Majors ...	3	:	:
Captains ...	6 } 9	:	1
<i>7/capt incl QM.</i> Lieutenants ...	3 } 9	:	:
2nd Lieutenants ...	21	2	:
Quartermasters ...	:	:	:
District Officers ...	:	:	:
Totals ...	34	2	1

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

**Officers JOINED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Wx 6889	Lieut. Keogh	2/28 Bn	10.4.42.	M. I. from 24 A.I.T. Bn & T.O.S. Regtl seasonally as from 15 Feb 42 (9 Amdt Dir ruling)

**Officers QUITTED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj	T/Lt.-col	Loughrey J.	2/28 Bn	Yes	Co.
"	"	Co	"	"	2/c
"	"	Brennan J.G.	"	"	OC HQ Coy
Capt	"	Buntine W.A.	"	No	METS
"	"	Thompson G.B.	"	Yes	OC D Coy
"	"	Simpson B.	"	"	C
"	"	Northwood P.R.	"	"	A
"	"	Stenhouse T.R.	"	"	A/OC B.
"	"	Newbery J.C.	"	No	METS
"	"	Taylor A.L.F.	"	Yes	2/c C Coy
Lieut	"	Keall G.	"	"	10
"	T/capt	Lamb L.	"	"	Adj't
"	"	Masel P.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Freedman H.G.	"	"	"
"	"	Waring E.	"	No	Det to No 6 AACU
"	T/capt	Yates G.H.	"	Yes	QM.
"	"	Ellis C.C.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Head J.W.	"	"	"
"	"	Hall R.J.	"	"	A 2/c B. Coy
"	"	Morris N.P.C.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Gamble H.F.	"	"	A 2/c A Coy
"	"	Walker S.A.J.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Robertson T.P.	"	"	"
"	"	Hickey M.	"	"	"
"	"	Stewart R.S.	"	"	A 2/c D. Coy
"	"	Parry G.L.W.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Piper J.W.	"	"	"
"	"	Namod E.C.	"	"	"
"	"	Eastman E.A.	"	"	"
"	"	Bird N.H.T.	"	"	"
"	"	Greaves G.R.	"	"	"
"	"	Baker G.E.S.	"	"	"
"	"	Chadwick R.F.	"	"	"
"	"	Keogh J.D.	"	"	"

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
QX 19059	Capt	Riddie K.W.	7th Fa Bn	17.7.41	R.M.O.
WX 3409	Capt	Macdonald B.T.	A.A. Ch D	26.7.41	Chaplain
WX 6525	Lieut	Morris A.D.	24 A.I.T. Bn	12.11.41	} of over WE.
WX 10567	"	Draper J.W.	"	12.11.41	
WX 4922	"	Johnson N.H.	"	18.11.41	
WX 6805	"	Waterson C.W.P.	"	17.12.41	
WX 11087	"	Thomas E.	"	20.12.41	
WX 11078	"	Cloutman W.T.G.	"	20.3.42	School.

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
18 Apr 42  
(Unit.)  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
(Signature of Commander.)  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

*728 Aust. Inf. Div.* (Unit). *18 Apr* 19 *42* (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1	.	.
W.Os. Class II.	7	1 (OCTU)	.
W.Os. Class III.	.	.	.
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	4	.	1
Staff Serjeants	.	.	.
Serjeants	50	.	1
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	.	.	.
Corporals	70	1 (at OCTU)	.
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	684	.	16
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>796</b>	* <b>2</b>	* <b>18</b>

\* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
<i>Sgt</i> 1	<i>AAMC</i>	<i>Pte</i> 1	<i>AAOC (Shoemaker)</i>
<i>Sgt</i> 1	<i>AAOC</i>	<i>Cpl</i> 1	<i>9 Div Postal Unit</i>
<i>Cpl</i> 1	<i>AAMC (Chiropodist)</i>	<i>Pte</i> 1	<i>AACh. D (Ld)</i>
<i>Pte</i> 1	<i>AAMC (Orderly)</i>		
<i>Cpl</i> 1	<i>AAOC (Ammunition)</i>		
<i>4 Sgt</i> 1	<i>- (Fitter No)</i>		
<i>Ptes</i> 2	<i>-</i>		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

*2/28 Aust Inf Bde.*  
Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers ... ..																				
Butchers ... ..																				
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..																				
Clerks ... ..																				
Cooks ... ..																				
Despatch Riders ... ..																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ... ..																				
"  "  (Wheeled) ... ..																				
Drivers-Mechanics ... ..																				
Drivers-Operators ... ..																				
Electricians ... ..																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers ... ..																				
Fitters ... ..																				
Machine Gunners ... ..																				
Masons ... ..																				
Motor Mechanics ... ..																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen) ... ..																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ... ..																				
Range Takers ... ..																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers ... ..																				
Saddle Tree Makers ... ..																				
Sanitary and Water Duties... ..																				
Signallers ... ..																				
Storemen technical ... ..																				
Tailors ... ..																				
Wheelers ... ..																				
General duty personnel ... ..		1						1	2				1	1				16	18	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).		1						1	2				1	1				16	18	

*2/28 Aust Inf Bde.*  
Unit.  
Date of Despatch *18 Apr 42.*

*[Signature]* Lt.-col.  
Signature of Commander.  
*24 Aust Inf Bde.*  
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

SECRET

2/28 MUST INF BN,

IN THE FIELD,  
18 APRIL 42.

Ref Map TRIPOLI: 1:50,000

3 PL BIVOUAC NO 2. 21-23 Apr 42.

1. OBJECT:

- (a) The training of the Pl in movement with Animal Transport.
- (b) To exercise Pl HQ in rationing and replenishment of supplies etc. in the field.
- (c) The exercising of the Pl in Battle Procedure in the attack.
- (d) To exercise 6 Pl personnel att. to 3 Pl.

2. LESSONS TO BE TAUGHT:

- (a) Mule loading and care of animals.
- (b) Mule conveying.
- (c) Protection at rest.
- (d) Map reading and compass.
- (e) Battle Procedure throughout the Pl (including Orders and Inter-communication).

3. SCOPE:

The Bivouac will be conducted in two phases :-

- 1st Phase: By M/T and march route.
- 2nd Phase: With A/T.

4. TIME AND PLACE:

(a) The Bivouac will commence at 0745 hrs 21 Apr 42 from 16482745 and will conclude at the same place at noon 23 Apr 42. The area in which movement will be carried out includes the present Coy areas of this unit - RAMLEE (KHEMILA) 16322747 - KAFR HATA 16362723 - K. RL. T LAL 16752690 - KAFR CHUKHNA 16342694 - TELLE ASNOUNE 16462725 - PT 114 16382743 - 16482745.

(b) Bivouac area night 21/22 Apr will be 100x WEST of PT 187 16722695.  
Bivouac area night 22/23 Apr to be notified to B.H.Q. during day 22 Apr.

NOTE: See also Apox A.

5. ADMINISTRATION:

Administration instructions are issued as per Apox A attached.

6. INTER-COMMUNICATION:

D.R. (if available) and foot orderlies.

*H. H. H. H.* Lieut.  
O.C. 3 Pl, 2/28 Must Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION:

All Dets., All Coys,  
Pl H.Q., B.H.Q., Q.M., T.O.,  
10 Mule Coy, File.

APPX "A"

ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. TROOPS TAKING PART:

3 Pl plus 2 drivers attached. Portion 10 Mule Coy (20 Mules).

2. DRESS:

Battle order less respirator and cape A/Gas; W/B filled; shirt, shorts, stockings or hose tops, boots and puttees. First Field dressing.

In haversack: Trs<sup>W</sup> K.D., pullover, ground sheet under flap, towel, eating utensils, cut lunch.

3. GREATCOATS AND BLANKETS:

Greatcoats and blankets on the basis of one (1) per man will be carried to the embussing points. On debussing, these will come into a Pl dump.

4. RATIONS:

One cut lunch drawn from Coys will be carried. Rationing for the remainder of the Bivouac will be under Pl arrangements, during which period two hot meals will be brought forward.

5. WATER:

Pl arrangement.

6. TRANSPORT:

Two 30 cwt's to report Sgt Hothersall Rear HQ at 0745 hrs 21 Apr 42. This transport will report at Coy areas on 21 Apr at the following times: -

A Coy - 0830 hrs at BAKHUON point.

B Coy - 0845 hrs

C Coy - 1000 hrs

D Coy - 0900 hrs at EL JDAIDE

17702805 (TRIPOLI S.S. No 2. 1:25,000).

All dets will debuss at RAMEH 16822747 where further orders and maps will be issued.

7. STORES:

2 and 6 dets to arrange for two mortars complete plus twenty-four rds SMOKE (in cases) 1 pick, 1 shovel to be at C Coy the day prior to commencement of the Bivouac.

NOTE WELL: To be placed in C Coy Q Store.

3 and 4 dets will EACH provide one mortar complete, 24 rds SMOKE (in cases) 1 pick, 1 shovel to be available at respective Q Stores by 0845 hrs 21 Apr.

All stores will be removed from the above areas under Pl arrangements.

8. PL. H.Q.:

Will receive separate instructions.

9. SECURITY:

One man per det will draw ten rds S.L.A. from Coys. This will be carried in the pouch and will NOT be loaded until ordered by O.C. Pl.

With a little imagination it should be possible for you to :  
decide which of these is your background, what are its salient features,  
and how you can add those marks of your presence that are unavoidable in  
such a way that they are least conspicuous.

Posn is nine parts of the law in camouflaging from the air  
observer. Good siting is the best form of camouflage and a bad posn  
will always be a bad posn whatever materials you may have to work with.

**10. MULE TRANSPORT:**

(a) To report SOUTH of KLER H.Q. 16662723 at 0730 hrs  
22 Apr 42. A guide will be on main road at this map ref and will lead  
M/T to Bivouac area at 16722695.

(b) Muleteers' rationing and mules' rationing and watering  
is the subject of separate arrangements.

**11. MEDICAL:**

A First Aid Kit will be carried in Pl H.Q.

**12. CONCLUSION:**

(a) At the conclusion of the Bivouac all personnel less  
10 Mule Coy will receive lunch at Rear H.Q.

(b) Personnel (and stores) will return by M/T to Coys,  
leaving at 1500 hrs 23 Apr.

(c) 10 Mule Coy personnel will report back to their unit  
in time for the midday meal.

13. Anti-Malarial equipment on issue to be rolled in blankets.



ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 323

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. PERSONNEL TRAVELLING IN RATION TRUCKS

No persons other than C.Q.M. Sigs or Coy storemen will be permitted to travel to Coys on vehicles carrying rations.

T.O. will ensure that all tpt drivers are aware of above instructions and that they take steps to prevent it from occurring.

2. BROKEN BAYONETS

An increasing number of broken bayonets are being returned to B.H.Q. for replacement.

Coy Comd will ensure that every possible care is taken to prevent recurrences of broken or damaged Bayonets, as replacements of same takes several weeks. A full report will be submitted to B.H.Q. immediately a breakage occurs explaining how it happened, whether due to an accident, or otherwise.

3. ACCOMMODATION.

The staging huts in Bn HQ area are now being used as Sgts' Mess buildings.

Personnel from Coys staging will be accommodated in tents.

4. DRESS.

Ref Bn R.O. No 314 para 2 and Bn R.O. 318 para 3.

It has been noticed that personnel are not changing into long trousers daily, before the evening mess parade.

Disciplinary action will be taken against offenders in future.

PART 1B

1. INTER COY TRANSFERS

WX7859	Pte	Arnold T.	A Coy	To HQ Coy	20 Apr 42.
WX10059	"	Skipworth E.J.	B Coy	"	"
WX5343	"	Paget F.M.	"	"	"
WX9610	"	Anderson H.	"	"	"
WX9620	"	Pettit L.P.	C Coy	"	"
WX7098	"	Dalglish D.	D Coy	"	"
WX10072	"	McWilliams J.R.	"	"	"

2. PROMOTIONS

WX3392 Lieut Masel P. HQ Coy To be T/Capt. Vide AIF List No 76. 17 Mar 42.

3. PUNISHMENTS

WX7255 Pte Grafton H.M.J. A Coy AWL Fined £1. Auto forf 1 days  
WX8027 " Molloy M. " pay. 18 Apr 42.

4. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM R LIST

WX13672 Pte Foote H.J. C Coy 15 Apr 42.

5. SCHOOLS AND COURSES.

WX5098 Pte Hancock S.G. HQ Coy ME School of Hygiene. Construct-  
ional Class Course A. Series  
No 21, 23 Mar/2 Apr 42.  
Distinguished pass.

6. TRANSFER IN

WX8971 Pte Challenger F.J. HQ Coy From HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.  
16 Apr 42.

7. TRANSFERS OUT

WX4845	Pte Williams E.M.	HQ Coy	To HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.	16 Apr 42.
WX6082	Cpl Warwick G.A.	D Coy (X List)	To Staff 1 Aust Con Dep.	15 Apr 42.
WX2921	Pte Cable F.W.	HQ Coy	To 2/1 AFW.	19 Apr 42.
WX5143	" Branson A.J.	"	"	"
WX6040	" Rodda W.P.	"	"	"
WX13242	" Fabry W.R.	"	"	"

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt, 2 Ech,  
Notice bd, File, Guard Commander,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D & 10 Pl (2 each).

*Raymond A. [unclear]*  
Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 324

BY LT-COL. J. LOUGHREY.

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. P.A.D. BUCKETS.

Instances have occurred of P.A.D. buckets being used as receptacles for rubbish.

This practice will cease immediately.

2. AUDIT BOARD.

As from 20 Apr 42 the following Officers will comprise the Audit Board :-

Capt J.C. NEWBERRY.	PRESIDENT.
Lieut M. HICKEY.	MEMBER.
Lieut A.D. MONRO.	MEMBER.

In future Monthly Statements will be signed and lodged with Bn 2 i/c on the 5th of each month.

3. COURTS MARTIAL.

All Officers attending Courts Martial will wear authorised summer dress only. Pistols will be worn.

4. PUNISHMENTS BY COURT MARTIAL.

The following punishments awarded by Courts Martial recently held under direction of H.Q., 9 Aust Div are published for information.

- (a) A private soldier convicted of AWL, striking another private soldier, striking a superior officer, resisting an escort and discharging his rifle without sufficient cause was sentenced to 120 days detention.
- (b) A private soldier convicted of leaving his post before he was regularly relieved was sentenced to 40 days detention.
- (c) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior officer and resisting an escort was sentenced to 60 days detention.
- (d) A warrant officer (class II) convicted of being found out of bounds was sentenced to be reduced to the rank of sergeant and to be severely reprimanded.
- (e) A corporal convicted of AWL and when in open arrest escaping was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks and to 60 days detention.
- (f) A private soldier convicted of AWL, failing to appear at a place of parade and losing by neglect his clothing was sentenced to 60 days detention.
- (g) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior officer was sentenced to 50 days detention.
- (h) Two private soldiers each convicted of receiving public property (one motor tyre) knowing it to have been stolen were each sentenced to 90 days detention.
- (i) A private soldier convicted of S.I.W. was sentenced to 90 days detention.

- (j) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior officer was sentenced to 60 days detention.
- (k) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior officer and resisting an escort was sentenced to 160 days detention.
- (l) A private soldier convicted of leaving his post before he was regularly relieved was sentenced to 60 days detention.

5. CLUTCH DISC FAILURE.

The practice of coasting vehicles downhill with the clutch disengaged and the transmission in gear is bad driving, and is liable to cause serious damage to the clutch. Officers Commanding Units will ensure that the attention of all MT drivers under their command is drawn to this, and that orders are issued that the practice must cease forthwith.

( 9 Aust Div R.O. 249 ).

6. PREMATURE EXPLOSIONS.

(a) In the event of any accident, premature explosion, serious misfire or hangfire occurring with any type of ammunition in any weapon, a signal will be sent by the O.C. concerned immediately to General Headquarters, Middle East, vide para 759, Section VII of Kings Regulations 1935 stating :-

- (i) Location of unit.
- (ii) Nature of accident.
- (iii) Calibre, type of weapon, registered number of piece.
- (iv) Type of ammunition lot and date of manufacture.
- (v) Fuse, Primer, etc., as applicable. Also lot number, date of filling etc.

(b) The signal will be followed as soon as possible by full details as per proformaat Appx "A" to this order, together with a brief report on the accident.

(c) Fragments of ammunition found after a premature explosion will be sent with the report.

(d) If a Court of Inquiry is ordered to assemble to investigate the occurrence, the time and place of assembly will also be notified to D.D.O.S. of the nearest Corps, or to the A.D.O.S. or D.A.D.O.S. of Formation, who will arrange for an Ordnance Technical Officer to attend the Court.

(e) Similar action will be taken by C.O's. in the event of any explosion or fire affecting ammunition or explosives in store on their charge.

.....  
.....Appx "A"

(APPENDIX "A")

REPORT ON ACCIDENT OR PREMATURE EXPLOSION WITH AMMUNITION

Station..... Unit.....  
 Nature of Accident.....  
 (i.e. premature, misfire, etc.).....  
 Type of Weapon.....  
 Reg. No. of Piece.....  
 Calibre.....  
 (Where applicable).....

AMMUNITION.

Type.....  
 Lot No.....  
 Date of Manufacture.....  
 Fuze No..... Mk..... Lot No.....  
 Date of filling.....  
 Primor No..... Mk..... Lot No.....  
 (as applicable)..... Date of filling.....  
 Type of Tube (P.S.A., etc.)..... Mk..... Lot No.....  
 (as applicable)..... Date of filling.....

REMARKS

( Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 250.)

PART 1B.

1. INTER COY TRANSFER. Ref R.O. No. 323.

DELETE WX9640 Pte Pettit L.P. C Coy To HQ Coy 20 Apr 42.

2. TRANSFER OUT

WX5403 Pte Sterrett E.V. X List A Coy To 1 Aust Con Dep. 14 Nov 41.

DISTRIBUTION.

C.O.; 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M.; I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bdc, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 2 Ech, File, Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt,  
 Notice bd, Guard Commander,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D & 10 Pl (2 each).

*James J. Hunt* Capt.  
 Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O. No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
25 APRIL 42. (639 DAY).

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 325

BY LT-COL. J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. BATTERIES, GASKETS AND SPARKING PLUGS.

Owing to the need for rigorous economy, installations have been set up for the repair and remaking of batteries, gaskets and sparking plugs.

All repairable and unserviceable stores of these types will be carefully packed and returned to the Ordnance Field Park or Depot from which replacements were issued.

Ordnance Field Parks and Ordnance Depots will return these items to 6 Advanced Ordnance Depot for repair and remaking in "B" Base Ordnance Workshops.

It is essential when replacements are made by the issue of serviceable stores that immediate action be taken by all units to return an equal quantity of the repairable or unserviceable stores to the Issuing Ordnance Field Park or Depot. If the stores are not available for return, a Certificate will be rendered by the O.C. Unit concerned stating the reasons.

(CR/ME/23516/O.S.(1).)

2. CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

In terms of Army Act 175 and 176 all non-enlisted persons who are employed by, or in the service of, any troops and all persons who are followers of or accompany any troops are subject to Military Law.

The above will be brought to the notice of all civilians employed by the Forces in any capacity and all such civilians will be required to complete the proforma below :-

"I understand that when employed by, or in the service of, or accompanying His Majesty's Military Forces now on active service, I become subject to Military Law under the Army Act.

Place ..... Signature .....

Date ..... Witnessed by ....."

(Applicable to all troops under Command)  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. 255.)

3. WHAT HAPPENS TO UNATTENDED VEHICLES

A Ford Utility Car recently broke down on the ALEXANDRIA - CAIRO road. The driver left it unattended but took the precaution of removing all loose fittings. On arrival in CAIRO he immediately reported the matter. By the time the car could be recovered the following articles had been stripped from it :-

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Radiator.           | 4 Body Window Glasses.          |
| 2 Radiator Top Hoses. | 2 Windcreens.                   |
| 1 Generator.          | 4 Inside Door Handles.          |
| 1 Carburettor.        | 2 Outside Door Handles.         |
| 1 Air Cleaner.        | 1 Rear Seat.                    |
| 1 Distributor.        | 2 Dome Lights.                  |
| 1 Coil and Condenser. | 3 Window Blinds.                |
| 1 HT Lead Assembly.   | 1 Front Bumper.                 |
| 1 Battery.            | 2 Headlamp Glasses.             |
| 2 Battery Cables.     | 2 Headlamp Bulbs.               |
| 1 Fuel Pump.          | 1 Wheel, Tyre & Tube, Complete. |
| 1 Oil Filter Pipe.    | 2 Electric Horns.               |
|                       | 2 Pedal Rubbers.                |

WHAT HAPPENS TO UNATTENDED VEHICLES (CONT).

DON'T IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES LEAVE A VEHICLE UNATTENDED.

( Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 259.)

4. ONE TIN WOODEN CRATES FOR PETROL TINS.

Petrol tins are now being issued packed singly in wooden crates. The tin is NOT to be withdrawn from these crates, which are to be returned with the tin.

Two holes will be made in the usual manner with the opening tool in the exposed portion of the top of the tin for pouring out the contents.

( Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No262.)

5. CHURCH SERVICES - SUNDAY 26 APR 42.

Anglican and Protestant Denominations.

0730 hrs Holy Communion, YMCA Recreation Hut, Bn HQ Area.

0900 hrs Church Parade in YMCA Recreation Hut, Bn HQ Area, Parade to be formed up on main roadway near hut at 0850 hrs.

Dress: Summer Dress, ---- belt web, hats turned up.

R.C.

1030 hrs. Mass in village church at 24 Bde HQ.

6. ANZAC DAY - OBSERVANCE.

Anzac Day, 1942, will be officially observed on Sunday, 26 th April.

( Vide AIF (ME) R.O. No 1068.)

PART 1B

1. HONOURS AND AWARDS.

His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of distinguished services in the Middle East for the period February, 1941, to July, 1941.

D.S.O.

WX3346 Lt-col John Edward LLOYD, M.C., 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

MENTIONS IN DESP. TCHES

WX3427 Capt J.A. JOHNSTONE	2/28 Aust Inf Bn.
WX3305 Capt J.L. ALLEN, M.C.,	"
WX3392 Lieut P. MASEL	"
WX3385 Lieut G. KELL	"
WX3409 Chaplain T.B. MACDONALD	"
WX5138 Sgt BR. BAZON, M.L.	"

Cont/

PART 1B Cont.

2. BURLIALS

WX3696	L/Cpl Sagers E.M.	Buried in Free French Cemetery, Tobruk - Derna road. Date unknown.
WX5527	Pte Atkins V.	do.
WX5702	" Clarke R.R.J.	do.
WX6038	" King A.G.	do.

3. PUNISHMENTS.

WX10131	Pte Lavery S.J.	B Coy	Unfit for duty by reason of previous indulgence in alcoholic stimulants. Fined £1. 21 Apr 42.
WX7258	" Bradley J.	"	AWL. Fined £2. 21 Apr 42.
WX9583	" Rodda S.E.	"	Neglected to obey Bn R.O. by entering a native village. Fined £1. 21 Apr 42.
WX9583	" Rodda S.E.	"	Absent from Camp Area without leave. Fined £2. 21 Apr 42.
WX3602	A/Cpl Munyard F.W.	"	(i) Absent from Camp Area without leave. (ii) Neglected to obey a Bn R.O. by entering a native village.
WX6021	Pte Frusher J.E.	D Coy	Reverts to substantive rank of Pte. 21 Apr 42. Left the ranks without authority of his superior Officer. Fined £3. 23 Apr 42.

4. REVERSION

WX3602	A/Cpl Munyard F.W.	B Coy.	Reverts to Pte. 21 Apr 42.
--------	--------------------	--------	----------------------------

5. TRADE-GROUPING

WX4928	Pte Salter W.E.	HQ Coy	Apptd A/TG.ii (Sig) 1 Apr 42.
--------	-----------------	--------	-------------------------------

6. TRANSFERS IN

WX2090	Cpl Hampson W.	D Coy.	From 1 Aust Commando Pl. 22 Apr 42.
WX7965	Pte Morgan W.R.	HQ Coy	do.

7. TRANSFERS OUT

WX6371	Pte McCarthy F.J.	D Coy	To Aust Base Depot. (For Med Bd) 23 Apr 42.
WX3296	" Dobner G.A.	BN HQ.	To 4 Aust Anti-Malaria Control Unit. 21 Mar 42.

DISTRIBUTION.

C.O.; 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.;  
Q.M.; 24 Bdc, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
2 Ech, Filc, Offrs mess, Sgts mess,  
Band Sgt, Notice bd, Guard Commander,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D & 10 Pl (2 each).

*W. J. ...* Capt.  
Majt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.



# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust. Inf Bn* (Unit.)

**PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.**

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	6		
Lieutenants ... <i>7 Captains incl QM</i>	3 } 9		
<del>2nd</del> Lieutenants ...	21	2	
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	34	2	1

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

**Officers JOINED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

**Officers QUITTED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Major	T/lt. - col	Loughrey J	2/28 Bn	Yes	CO
		Goep J	"	-	2/c
		Brennan J	"	-	OC HQ Coy
		Buntine W	"	No	METS
Capt		Thompson J	"	Yes	OC D Coy
		Simpson B	"	-	" C
		Hootwood V	"	-	" A
		Stemhouse T	"	-	A/c B
		Newbery J	"	No	METS
		Taylor A	"	Yes	2/c C Coy
Lieut		Keall G	"	-	10
	T/capt	Lamb L	"	-	Adytl
		Wassell P	"	-	Pl Comdr
		Freedman J	"	-	"
		Waring E	"	No	Det G L A M C Unit
	T/capt	Yates G	"	Yes	Q M
		Ellis C	"	-	Pl Comdr
		Lead J	"	-	"
		Wall R	"	-	A 2/c B Coy
		Harris J	"	-	Pl Comdr
		Gamble H	"	-	A 2/c A Coy
		Walker S	"	-	Pl Comdr
		Robertson T	"	-	"
		Fisher W	"	-	"
		Stewart R	"	-	A 2/c D Coy
		Parry G	"	-	Pl Comdr
		Piper J	"	-	"
		Larrod E	"	-	"
		Eachum E	"	-	"
		Bird A	"	-	"
		Greaves G	"	-	"
		Baker S	"	-	"
		Shadrach R	"	-	"
		Keogh J	"	-	"

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Army Lt	Rant	Priddis J	2/5 72 Bn	17.7.41	R M V
Qx 19059	Capt	Mason T	AACH D	26.7.40	Chaplain
WX 3209	Chaplain	Morris A	24 A.I.T.B.	12.11.41	} o/o over W.R.
WX 6325	Lieut	Drazer J	"	19.11.41	
WX 10568	"	Aburne M	"	17.12.41	
WX 4923	"	Paterson C	"	20.12.41	
WX 6805	"	Thomas S	"	30.12.41	
WX 11087	"	Cloutman W	"	30.12.41	School
WX 11078	"	"	"	"	"

2/28 Aust Inf Bn  
(Unit.)

25 Apr 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]  
(Signature of Commander.)

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

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

2/28 Aust Inf Bn (Unit) 25 Apr 45 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1	.	.
W.Os. Class II.	7	1 (1st Coy)	.
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	4	.	1
Staff Serjeants	.	.	.
Serjeants	30	.	1
Corporals	70	1 (1st Sgt)	.
Troopers, Privates, &c.	679	.	21
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>

\* These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
Sgt.	1 AAMC	Pt	1 AAOC (Shorncliffe)
Sgt.	1 AAFC	Cpl	1 9 Div Postal Unit
Cpl	1 AAMC (Chiropodist)	Pte	1 AAOC 3 (Inver)
Pte	1 AAMC (Orderly)		
Cpl	1 AAOC (Barracks)		
Hyt.	1 - (Fitter MV)		
Plas	2 - - -		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

Army Form W. 3009  
(page 2)

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
General duty personnel		1				1		2			1	1		21	23
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)		1				1		2			1	1		21	23

2/28 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

Date of Despatch 25 Apr 42

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Commander.  
24 Aust Inf Bn  
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD:  
29 APRIL 42. (643 DAY).

*War Diary*

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 326

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. KIT STOPPAGES

With reference to A.I.F. Standing Orders, 1940, para 224, it is advised that units will prepare Kit Stoppage Sheets for issues on repayment in quadruplicate, three of the copies being for use of Chief Paymaster.

(Ref A.I.F. (M.E.) R.O. 1069.)

2. P.T. PATIENTS - MESSING GEAR.

Coys will ensure that patients sent for admission to M.D.S. take messing gear with them.

3. ZGHORTA VILLAGE

The above village is definitely out of bounds to all troops except to personnel legitimately on duty.

Any personnel reported as being beyond the limits of the camp perimeter after Tattoo will incur disciplinary action.

To enforce the above periodic snap roll calls will be conducted at irregular hours.

4. BEARING OF TPS ON LEAVE

Laziness in saluting and general conduct of tps on leave in Tripoli has incurred the displeasure of the Div Comd.

Carelessness in the above will result in disciplinary action against the offender and may cause suspension of Tripoli Leave for all members of the Unit to which the offender belongs.

PART II B

1. ATTACHMENT

WX11086 Lieut Price R.S. C Coy Attached from 24 A.T.B.  
27 Apr 42.

2. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX11972	Pte	Male J.G.	D Coy	22 Apr 42.
WX8095	Cpl	Stark J.M.	B "	23 " "
WX6986	Pte	Hell C.J.	D "	20 " "

3. PROMOTION

WX6283 L/Cpl Gaby R.G. DCoy To be A/Cpl 28 Apr 42.

4. PUNISHMENTS

WX10655	Pte	Lacey I.	A Coy	Failed to appear at place of parade. Fined £2. 24 Apr 42.
WX7970	"	Nicholls W.G.	"	Used obscene language to his Sec Comdr. 7 days C.B. 13 Apr 42.
WX13017	"	White W.W.	Hq Coy	Left the Guard House without authority. Fined £1. 28 Apr 42.
WX13017	"	White W.W.	"	When ordered by superior Officer to give his name refused to do so. Fined £2. 28 Apr 42.

5. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST.

WX6986	Pte Hall C.J.	D Coy	27 Apr 42.
WX10665	" Bunn M.G.	A "	"
WX4997	L/Cpl Hutchinson W.	HQ Coy	"
WX5909	Pte Sarginson I.M.	Bn HQ	"
WX5067	" Williams G.F.	A Coy	"

6. SCHOOLS AND COURSES

WX6002	Pte McLean R.W.	HQ Coy	ME Mech Sch. No 21 Crs. Passed Trade Test Motor-Mech Class 3. 10 Apr 42.
WX9972	" Manton J.R.	"	Inf Base Depot Sch. No 12 Carri Crs. 6/18 Apr 42. Passed.

7. REVERSIONS

WX7938	A/Cpl Martain R.E.	D Coy	Reverts to Pte on joining Unit from Reinf. 27 Apr 42.
WX13278	" Pitschel J.W.E.	A Coy	"

8. TRADE GROUPING

WX5098	Pte Hancock S.G.	HQ Coy	App'd TG in Carpenter. 28 Apr 42.
--------	------------------	--------	-----------------------------------

9. TRANSFERS IN FROM REINFORCEMENTS 27 APRIL 42.

WX10033	Pte Ferguson L.P.	HQ Coy	WX10694	Pte McGillivray D.M.	HQ C
WX13246	" Foster S.G.	A "	WX13278	A/Cpl Pitschel J.W.E.	A "
WX11976	" Bransby L.	B "	WX14137	Pte Dixon E.D.	B "
WX13384	" Bailey N.H.	C "	WX12000	" O'Donoghue J.P.	C "
WX14583	" Terrell N.	C "	WX16713	" Jarvis S.R.	D "
WX7938	A/Cpl Martain R.E.	D Coy	WX11952	" Miller H.H.	D "

10. TRANSFER OUT

WX4426	L/Cpl Ellis J.A.	Bn HQ	To HQ, 24 Dist Inf Bde. 20 April 42.
--------	------------------	-------	--------------------------------------

11. INTER COY TRANSFER

WX3850	Pte ARCHIBALD J.	D Coy	To HQ Coy 28 Apr 42.
--------	------------------	-------	----------------------

DISTRIBUTION.

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.;  
 Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 2 Ech, File, Offrs mess, Sgts mess,  
 Band sgt, Notice bd, Guard Commander,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D & 10 Pl. (2 each).

*James J. ... Capt.  
 Adj 2/28 Dist Inf Bn.*

MAY MONTH  
1942 YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

WAR DIARY

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

*ack orig 171*

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES
<u>LEBANON</u>	<u>MAY</u>	Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	
	1	R/O 327.	1
	2	Field Return (Offrs & O/Rs)	2
	6	R/O 328	3
	9	Field Return (Offrs & O/Rs)	4
	12	R/O 329	5
	13	With the approach of summer cricket is becoming popular. The Officers played 24 Bde Officers on Sunday 10 May and severely trounced them - Doc PRIDDIS scoring 94. Unit transport difficulties have been relieved as further vehicles are issued and it is now possible to send swimming parties to the beach daily.	
	14	Warning order to Coys - ref relief by 2/23 Bn. Leave - Information has been received that all tps are to receive 28 days leave annually. No final details yet to hand but the AIF will receive their allotment in periods of 7 days.	6 7
	16	R/O 330 Instructions ref Ceremonial Pde in honour of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester.	8
	18	Field Return (Offrs & O/Rs) R/O 331 R.V. for C.O.'s. to meet H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester.	9 10 11
	20	Bn has been relieved by 2/23 Bn and has moved to BECHMEZZINE. 24 Aust Inf Bde now becomes reserve Bde in the Fortress and our new role is beach defence and counter attack anywhere in the Fortress Area.	12
	21	Extensive recces are being made by all Officers of all lateral rds to the coast to enable a sudden move to any pt on the beach as far SOUTH as TABAJA being successful.	

MAY

MONTH

(2)

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

## WAR DIARY

1942

YEAR

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES
<u>LEBANON</u>	MAY	<p>The actual relief was satisfactorily effected yesterday, and the Bn convoy arrived at the new camp site by 1600 hrs. In our present posn Coys, although occupying separate lines, are all close together. Officers are all messing together for the first time since our arrival in SYRIA.</p> <p>22 R/O 332. OP Instn No 1 covering role of Mobile Coy at 30 min call.</p> <p>R/O 333.</p> <p>23 Field Return (Offrs &amp; O/Rs)</p> <p>25 R/O 334.</p> <p>25 Last night as the result of an unknown convoy being observed close in shore NORTH of TRIPOLI the Bn was ordered to stand to and make all preparations to move, on 30 mins notice, to resist any enemy landing. The alarm was considered genuine and everyone was keyed up for some excitement after many months of inactivity but it has since been revealed that the convoy consisted of Allied Vessels whose proximity was unknown to 9 Aust Div.</p> <p>29 R/O 335</p> <p>30 Field Return (Offrs &amp; O/Rs) During the month 68 reinforcements were drafted to the Bn - This draft virtually completes the WX reinforcements available in the M.E. as no more personnel are being sent from Aust. Coys have been practising impromptu "Stand to's" during the hrs of darkness in view of the Bn's role of maintaining a Mobile Coy at call for coast defence and some very satisfactory results have been obtained.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p>



(3)

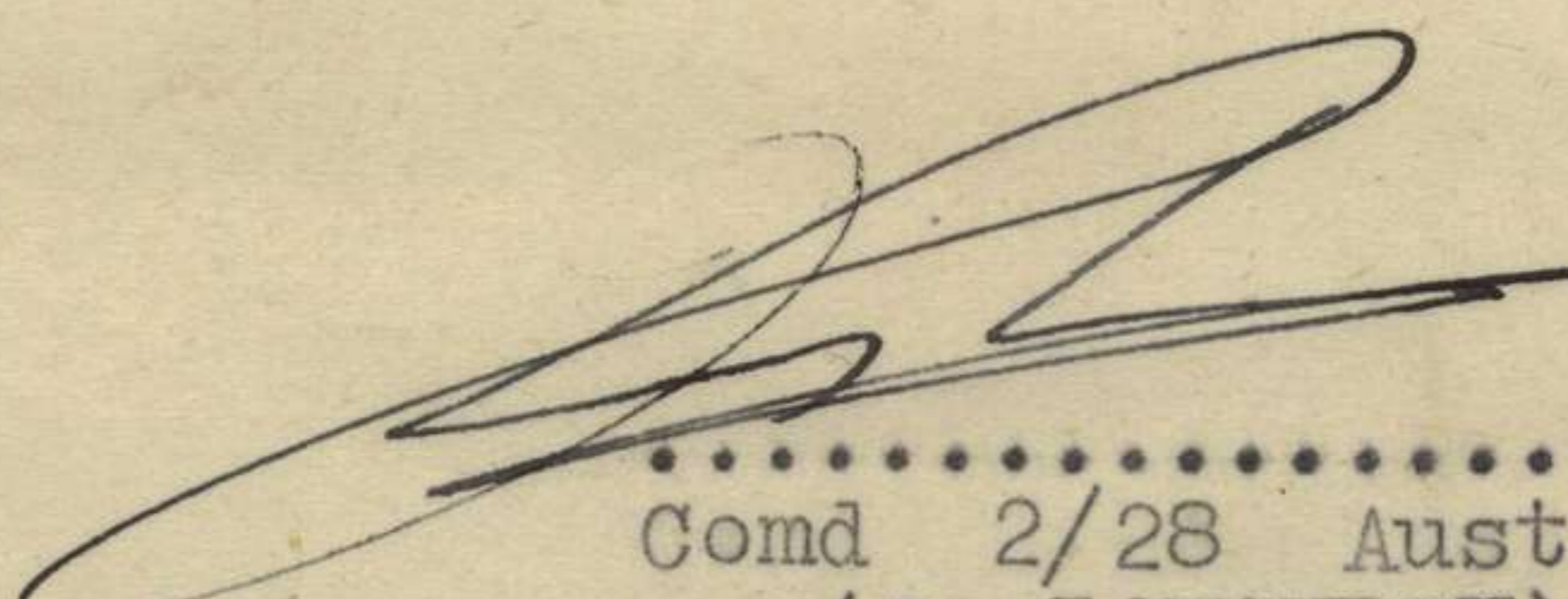
MAY MONTH

1942 YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

# WAR DIARY

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES
<u>LEBANON</u>	<u>May</u>  30	<p>Preparations are being made for 24 Aust Inf Bde to move from this area early in June to carry out intensive advanced desert tng. With the advent of summer sandfly fever has become more prevalent but not in sufficient numbers to cause concern. Malaria within the Unit has been non-existent up to date.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">   .....Lt-col.  Comd 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.  (J. LOUGHREY). </p>	

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.F. & O. No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
1 MAY 42. (645 DAY)

*Went  
Jain*

ROUTINE ORDER

PART 1 A  
No 327

BY L.T.-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. TROUGH URINALS

It is reported that certain personnel are using urinal troughs for disposal of refuse, food etc.

This practice must cease and disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.

2. PERSONNEL STAGING AT REAR H.Q.

N.C.Os. in charge of Coy Leave Parties who stage at Rear H.Q. are responsible for the cleanliness of Staging Hut/Tents.

They will ensure that these quarters are left tidy before proceeding on leave or return to Coys.

PART 1B

1. PUNISHMENTS

WX10061 Pte DeGLISH H. D Coy A.M.L. Fined \$3. 29 Apr 42.

2. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST.

WX7605 Pte Park S.W.E. D Coy 29 Apr 42.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.C., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
2 Ech, File Officers mess, Sgts mess, Band, Sgt,  
Notice bd, Guard Commander.  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D, & 10 Pl (2 each).

*Raymond Capt  
Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.*

NOTICE.

Found one leather waist belt. Now on hand at Bu H.Q.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit.)

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
*			
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1	.	.
Majors ...	3	.	.
Captains ...	6	.	1
Lieutenants <i>(Capts incl QM)</i> ...	3	.	.
2nd Lieutenants ...	21	2	.
Quartermasters ...	.	.	.
District Officers ...	.	.	.
Totals ...	34	2	1

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
WX 11086	Lieut Price R.	24 A.I.T. Bn	27.4.42	Attached for duty & rations (op over W.E)
WX 11087	Thomas E.	"	"	From MEWITS No 22 Rifle & LMG Course

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
WX 6525	Lieut Howes A.D.	24 A.I.T. Bn	1.5.42	To 9 Aust Div P.T. School

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj	T/Lt.-col	Loughrey J	2/28 In	Yes	CO
"	"	Cooper J.P.	"	"	2/c
"	"	Brennan J.G.	"	"	oc. HQ Coy
"	"	Burline W.A.	"	No	W & T.S.
Capt	"	Thompson J.B.	"	Yes	oc. D Coy
"	"	Simpson B.	"	"	- C.
"	"	Northwood V.R.	"	"	- A.
"	"	Stenhouse J.R.	"	"	A/oc. B Coy
"	"	Jewbery J.C.	"	No	W & T.S.
"	"	Keall G	"	Yes	2/c C Coy
Lieut	"	Lamb. L	"	"	1.0.
"	T/capt	Masul P.	"	"	Adj't
"	"	Freedman N.J.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Waring T.F.	"	No	Det to 6 AAMC Unit
"	T/capt	Yates G.V.	"	Yes	QM.
"	"	Ellis C.C.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Keane J.M.	"	"	-
"	"	Hall R.J.	"	"	A 2/c B Coy
"	"	Morris J.H.C.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Gamble W.S.	"	"	A 2/c A Coy
"	"	Walker S.A.J.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Robertson J.P.	"	"	-
"	"	Hickey M.	"	"	-
"	"	Stewart R.I.	"	"	A 2/c D Coy
"	"	Parry G.L.W.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Piper L.W.	"	"	-
"	"	Harrod E.C.	"	"	-
"	"	Eastman E.A.	"	"	-
"	"	Bird N.H.T.	"	"	-
"	"	Crean G.R.	"	"	-
"	"	Baker G.S.	"	"	-
"	"	Shadwick R.J.	"	"	-
"	"	Keogh J.D.	"	"	-

**(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.**

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
QX 19059	Capt	PRIDDIS K.W.	2/3 Fd Amb	17.7.41.	R.M.O.
WX 3409	Chaplain	Macdonald J.B.	4A Ch D	26.7.40	Chaplain
WX 6125	Lieut	Morris J.D.	24. A.T. Bn	12.11.41	School
WX 10568	"	Draper J.W.	"	"	} of over W & T.S.
WX 4922	"	Thomas H.K.	"	18.11.41.	
WX 6805	"	Paton C.W.R.	"	17.12.41	
WX 11087	"	Thomas E.	"	30.12.41	
WX 11078	"	Cloutman W.T.G.	"	30.3.42	
WX 11086	"	Price R.I.	"	27.4.42	

2/28 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)  
2 May 42 (Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander.)  
24 Aust Inf Bde (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)





10, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
6 MAY 42 (650 DAY).

3

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART I A  
NO 328

*War Diary*

BT LT-COL J. LOUGHERY

CGMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. VIOLATION OF ORDERS.

All ranks will note that in future orders issued from this H.Q. relative to ANY subject, will be rigidly adhered to. On assuming duties, Officers or N.C.O.S., i/c will acquaint themselves with the written orders for such duties. Any amendments to or departures from these orders will be permissible only by consent of higher authority.

2. PERSONNEL STAGING AT REAR HQ.

Coys will submit Bn HQ by 1700 hrs daily, a list of personnel staging at Rear HQ that night. R.S.M. will arrange for Bn HQ tattoo roll call to include these personnel.

3. USE OF TRANSPORT WORK TICKETS - AF G.3518.

1. The following instructions regarding the use of AF G.3518 will be brought into use forthwith :-

- (a) The authority for issuing AF G.3518 will be the O.C Unit (or his representative) holding the vehicle on charge.
- (b) AF G.3518 will be issued for each vehicle and motor cycle operated until the form is completed, or for a period of seven days (whichever is the earlier). The detail at the head of the form will be completed on issue - the space provided for the date to be inserted will show the date of issue of the form, and the space for the hour of parade will be left blank. Column 10 (to show the speedometer reading at time of issue) and column 12 (amount of petrol to be written in words) will also be completed at the same time.
- (c) (i) The unit providing the vehicle for duty will complete columns 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in accordance with the detail to be carried out. Column 2 must give full details of load and service for each separate journey. General descriptions such as "Company Duties", "Camp Details", "Staff Car Duties", etc., will NOT be used.  
  
(ii) In all cases where the unit supplying the vehicle is not in possession of sufficient data to complete the columns detailed in (c) (i) above, columns 1 (to show data, time and for whom journey is required) 2 (as far as possible) and 6 only will be completed. The individual or establishment accepting the vehicle for duty will complete the outstanding columns before the vehicle commences the detail, and for each subsequent journey which the vehicle in question may be required to carry out.
- (d) Transport work tickets will be used for all vehicles utilised for training purposes. The details required under columns 3 to 8 will be completed as far as it is feasible to do so.
- (e) A summary of all petrol issued for the period the form is in operation will be recorded on the reverse of the AF G3518 in the space provided at columns 19 or 20, whichever is convenient. This must also appear in AB 412 in the appropriate record.

i/.

(f) Columns 7, 8 and 9 will be completed by the driver at the end of each detail, and the remaining columns will be completed before the AF G3518 is handed in prior to the issue of a new form, i.e., at the end of seven days or until the form is completed, vide (b) above.

(g) Vehicles carrying out details on repayment will have the word REPAYMENT endorsed in red ink on the AF G3518.

2. The above will be strictly complied with except in forward areas, and disciplinary action is to be taken against anyone reported for an infringement of this order.

3. Army Headquarters will lay down in orders those areas, where, for operational reasons, Transport Work Tickets will not be used.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 278).

#### 4. WASTAGE RETURNS OF WARLIKE STORES

1. As from 1 Apr 42, Units will report wastage twice a month instead monthly.

2. Reports will be made as follows :-

(a) For the period 1st-15th of each month, the wastage of all items shown on M.E. 45 will be reported by units to Brigade, Divisional or Area H.Q., for consolidation and transmission to commands. Statements will be forwarded to D.O.S., G.H.Q., by Commands, not later than the last day of each month.

(b) For the period 16th to the end of each month, the wastage will be reported by Units on M.E. 45A. The heading of the last column of the return will be amended accordingly. This wastage will then be consolidated in the normal way by Divisions, Brigades and Areas, and included in their consolidated return, which is to reach G.H.Q., by 14th of the following month.

3. Wastage to be reported is defined as :-

(a) Destroyed by enemy action or by other means.

(b) Abandoned or captured.

(c) Rendered unserviceable or beyond local repair.

4. Returns to reach Bde H.Q. by 1200 hrs on 15th and last days of each month.

5. Nil returns are required.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 279).

#### 5. MATCHES - PROHIBITION OF TRANSMISSION BY POST.

In view of the serious risk of damage to mails, matches of all kinds, including safety matches, will on no account be sent by post to any address, whether inland or abroad, however carefully packed. Matches come within the category of dangerous or explosive substances, and any person who sends or attempts to send matches through the post is liable to prosecution.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 282).



6. ANKLETS - WEB.

Anklets, web will remain an issue to all ranks, but will NOT be worn, except with S.D. uniform.

Particular attention will be paid to anklets, web at kit inspections to ensure that they are not mislaid, and are in serviceable condition.

( Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 285.)

7. CONSERVATION OF FLYSOL

Owing to the present situation in the Far East the future provision of Flysol is precarious.

In order to effect the strictest economy the following action will be taken from now on :-

- (a) Issue of Flysol will be cut down from 75 gallons per 1000 men per month to 60 gallons per 1000 men per month.
- (b) Formations and Units will treat their issue of Flysol as a "controlled store", and will issue it only to specific persons such as sanitary or medical orderlies. Those so detailed will be responsible for flitting of the unit's tents, huts or billets, cookhouses and latrines, one or more times per day as the Unit M.O. in charge thinks fit.

Flit-guns will not be issued other than to the personnel mentioned above, and Commanding Officers will ensure that this personnel is kept to a minimum consistent with local conditions.

( Ref NINE Army 9A/1110/1/Q)

PART 1B

1. INFANTRY COY TRANSFERS

WX578 Major Duntine M.A.	HQ Coy	To B Coy 6 May 42.
5571 Pte Jamieson C.D.	C Coy	To HQ Coy 30 Apr 42.

2. BURIALS

WX5528 Pte Ral P	D Coy	Buried Tobruk War Cemetery, Grave No. 407. 16 Dec 41.
WX6782 " Duncan H.C.J.	"	Buried Tobruk War Cemetery, Grave No. 410. 16 Dec 41.

3. EMBARKATION FOR AUSTRALIA

WX5464 Pte Reid T.J.	HQ Coy	Embarked for return to Australia "Medically Unfit".
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4. DETACHMENTS

WX5789 Pte Hall C.W.	D Coy	To HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde. 1 May 42.
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5. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX7018 Pte Barrett J.	A Coy	1 May 42.
WX4973 " Laming F.C.	C Coy	"
WX10655 " Lacey I.	A Coy	2 May 42.

6. PUNISHMENT

WX6639 Pte Crossdale J.W.	HQ Coy	Refused duty. Extra Guards and duties for 7 days. 4 May 42.
---------------------------	--------	---

7. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST

WX10645 Pte Gumpstey H.	D Coy	1 May 42.
-------------------------	-------	-----------

8. SCHOOLS AND COURSES

WX7592 Cpl Roe D.	A Coy	MENTS NO. 12 Grenade Crs. 30 Mar/16 Apr. Qual. Grade II.
-------------------	-------	--

9. TRANSFERS IN

WX15439 Pte Pilmer i.c.	(i.c.) HQ Coy	From 2/1 i.c.F.W.	2 May 42.
SX14196 Chaplain Swan C.M.	Bn HQ	" 2/3 C.C.S. BEYROUTH.	4 May 42

10. TRANSFER OUT

WX5393 Pte Maher B.D.	i Coy	To 2/1 i.c.F.W.	6 May 42.
-----------------------	-------	-----------------	-----------

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bdc, War Diary (2) Postal Cpl,  
 2 Ech, File, Offrs mess, Sgts mess,  
 Band Sgt, Notice bd, Guard Commander,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D & 10 Pl (2 each).

*Kenney Lane* Capt.  
 i.c. Bn.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)*

**PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.**

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1	.	.
Majors	3	.	.
Captains <i>7/bapt's incl QM</i>	6 } 3 } 9	.	1
Lieutenants	21	2	.
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
District Officers			
Totals	34	2	1

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

**Officers JOINED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
WX3378	Maj. Runtine	2/28 Bn	5.5.42	From METS do not serve Offes bourse
SX14196	Chaplain Seward	6th Bn D	4.5.42	From 2/3 66 S Recruit attached for duty.

**Officers QUITTED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
WX3409	Chaplain Macdonald B.T.	19th Bn D	7.5.42	To 2/3 66 S. Recruit for duty.

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

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

Copy.

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
May	T/Lt. Col	Loughrey J.P.	2/28 Inf	yes	6.0
"	"	boy J.P.	"	"	2 1/2
"	"	Brennan J.P.	"	"	O.C. Hd boy
"	"	Burtine J.P.	"	"	O.C. B boy
bapt	"	Chambers J.B.	"	"	O.C. D
"	"	Simpson J.B.	"	"	O.C. C
"	"	Northwood V.R.	"	"	O.C. A
"	"	Stenhouse T.R.	"	"	2 1/2 B
"	"	Newberry J.B.	"	No	Mr & J.S.
"	"	Haylor A.L.F.	"	yes	2 1/2 C boy
lieut	"	Keall G.	"	"	1.0
"	T/bapt	Lamb J.H.	"	"	adjt
"	"	Masel P.	"	"	Pl bonds
"	"	Freedman H.G.	"	"	"
"	"	Waring E.I.	"	No	Det to 6 AAM unit
"	+/bapt	Jates G.H.	"	yes	& Mr
"	"	Ellis G.B.	"	"	Pl bonds
"	"	Head J.M.	"	"	"
"	"	Hall J.P.	"	"	"
"	"	Norris H.G.B.	"	"	"
"	"	Example J.A.E.	"	"	A/2 1/2 A boy
"	"	Walker S.A.G.	"	"	Pl bonds
"	"	Robertson J.P.	"	"	"
"	"	Hickey M.	"	"	"
"	"	Stewart R.S.	"	"	A/2 1/2 O boy
"	"	Perry G.H.W.	"	"	Pl bonds
"	"	Piper D.W.	"	"	"
"	"	Hanrod E.B.	"	"	"
"	"	Eastman E.A.	"	"	"
"	"	Bird A.H.J.	"	"	"
"	"	Greens G.H.	"	"	"
"	"	Baker G.H.S.	"	"	"
"	"	Chadwick R.F.	"	"	"
"	"	Keogh J.D.	"	"	"

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Army No	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
19059	bapt	Pradick K.W.	2/37d Amb	17.7.41	R.M.O.
12196	chaplain	Swain G.W.	17 A 6th B	4.5.41	chaplain
8525	lieut	Morris G.S.	24 A 1st B	12.7.41	school %
10548	"	Draper J.W.	"	18.11.41	} over } W.E.
4922	"	Shorne J.W.	"	17.12.41	
6805	"	Thomas G.W.	"	30.12.41	
11087	"	Price E.	"	27.4.42	
11086	"	Bloutman A.J.G.	"	20.3.42	
11078	"	"	"	"	"

2/28 Aust Inf Bde  
9 May 42  
(Unit.)  
(Date of Despatch.)

Sgd J. Loughrey Lt. Col  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
(Signature of Commander.)  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

**FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.**

2/28 Aust Light (Unit) ..... 9 May 1912 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

**Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.**

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.	7	1 (6000)	
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants	3		2
Staff Serjeants	.		1/2
Serjeants	31		
Corporals	60		1
Troopers, Privates, &c.	702	2	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

\* These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

**Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.**

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
Sgt	1 AAFC	Pte	3 AAOC (Fisher MV)
"	1 AAFC	"	1 AAOC (Shrewsbury)
Cpl	1 - (Chicopee)	Cpl	1 AAOC (C) 9 Div
Pte	1 - (Oxford)	Pte	1 AAOC D (Watson - Div)
L/Sgt	1 AAOC (Ramaney)		
Cpl	1 - "		
L/Sgt	1 - (Fisher MV)		

**Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).

2/20 Amst Supply Unit.

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

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

2/20 Amst Supply Unit.  
Date of Despatch 9 May 52

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Commander.  
24 Amst Supply Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART I A  
No 329

*War Diary*

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

**1. M.T. SPEEDING.**

24 Aust Inf Bde R.O. No. 108 of 23 Mar 42 is repeated for attention by units :-

"(a) Many cases of excessive speeding by WD vohs have been noticed.

(b) Severe disciplinary action will be taken in future against offenders."

Comd Offrs will ensure that drivers are instructed that they must not exceed limits laid down in Appx 'A' to 3 Aust Div R.O. 202 of 21 Mar 42.

(Ref 24 Aust Inf Bde R.O. No. 36).

**2. REMOVAL OF CUT STONE.**

(a) Stone will NOT be removed from any quarry without the approval of C.R.E. 9 Aust Div.

(b) Under no circumstances will cut stone be removed from any building wall or stack.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 295.)

**3. B BROTHEL - CHEKKA.**

(a) The brothel at CHEKKA is for the use of BASUTO Troops only.

(b) Severe disciplinary action will be taken against any other troops visiting the brothel.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 296.)

**4. DRESS - LEAVE.**

(a) Troops are still arriving in TRIPOLI on leave untidily and improperly dressed.

(b) O.C. Coys will ensure that troops are correctly dressed before they proceed on leave.

**5. PERSONNEL ENTERING THE TOWN OF TRIPOLI**

(a) Under no conditions will personnel enter the town of TRIPOLI on foot or on vehicles unless wearing shirts.

(b) Disciplinary action will be initiated by anyone apprehending personnel committing a breach of this order.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 299).

**6. DISCIPLINE - SALUTING OF ALLIED OFFICERS**

When two or more Officers meet an Allied Officer or Officers, all Officers will either salute or acknowledge the salute of the Allied Officers, as the case may be.

The rank of British or Allied Officers is immaterial.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 300).

## 7. WORLD PRESS REVIEW.

(a) The attention of all units is drawn to the announcement of the beginning of a new series for the above publication, commencing May 3rd.

(b) World Press Review, as from the above date, will be on sale to all ranks of the Fighting Services ONLY at the price of P.T. 2 per copy.

(c) To those who are not familiar with it, this publication seeks to give week by week the best selection of articles of interest that have appeared in the World's Press. It is produced by GHQ, MEF, and the material is drawn from the best and most informative matter relating to present world affairs.

(d) Subscriptions are invited. The only way to procure a copy is to place an order. Individual subscriptions may be taken out at the rates specified below or units may place orders in bulk which will be invoiced monthly at the price given above, less 10 per cent discount.

(e) Subscription rates are as under. These cancel all previous announcements. They are quoted in sterling, which may be obtained in the form of postal orders at all Field Post Offices, and in the local currencies of all countries coming within the Middle East Command.

	<u>Sterling</u>	<u>Palestine</u>
3 months	5/-	Mils 250.
6 months	10/-	" 500.
12 months	20/-	L.P. 1.

(f) All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the "Editor", World Press Review".  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 301).

**NOTE:** It is proposed to purchase one copy per Coy from Regtl Funds.

## 8. SHORTAGE OF TIMBER - MIDDLE EAST.

(a) Owing to world shortage it is necessary to ensure extreme economy in wood and the use of wooden articles in the Middle East.

(b) Great care will be taken to conserve wooden articles in general use, such as tables, trestles, forms, tent poles, tent pegs, etc.; they will be repaired when damaged and retained in use until completely worn out. Wooden packing cases are of equal economic value and will on no account be destroyed or used as firewood.

(c) This shortage of wood can only be made good by units obeying this order in the right spirit and co-operating in economy of this important commodity.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 303).

## 9. SIGNAL TIME.

Throughout the Middle East all the Services will use the Greenwich time signal for synchronisation. This is radiated by the B.B.C. Empire Service at frequent intervals during the day. The exact time is recorded by the last "pip". The necessary corrections will be made in local time.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 307).



**10. LOOT AND TRAFFIC IN ARMS**

9 Aust Div Routine Order No. 298 is republished.

"GH Q (ME) General Order No. 614 is repeated :--

'It has been definitely established that members of H.M. Forces have been selling captured arms and ammunition.

From this, it is clear that the existing orders, on this subject are not being obeyed. All ranks are reminded that it is forbidden to retain in their possession any public enemy property found on the battlefield. Anyone who disposes of captured arms to other persons is directly assisting the enemy, since such arms find their way to those who work for the enemy. Such action is an offence punishable by a sentence of two years imprisonment.

Any captured war material in the possession of army personnel will be surrendered immediately. "  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 305.)

**11. OPENING OF 4-GALLON TINS LIGHT - POL.**

(a) It is noticed that many 4-gallon tins, light, are being opened with beer tin-openers. Tins opened by this method are rendered completely useless for refilling and it is impossible to recondition them.

(b) The correct way to open 4-gallon tins, light, is to pierce a hole in the top 3/4 inch away from the edge leaving the cap untouched. The special opening tool should always be used for this purpose.

(c) Disciplinary action will be taken against those who render tins unserviceable through improper opening.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 314.)

**12. ANKLETS - WEB.**

Ln. R.O. No. 323 of 6 May 42 is cancelled, pending the completion of issue of short puttees to all ranks.  
(Ref 9 Div R.O. No. 315.)

PART 1B

**1. INTER COY TRANSFER**

WX6678 Sgt Dover H.H. C Coy To B Coy 11 May 42.

**2. APPOINTMENTS**

WX5453	Pte Bennett L.W.	D Coy	Apptd L/Cpl	8 May 42.
WX7174	" Crawford H.B.	"	do.	
WX5868	" Mann P.	"	do.	
WX5789	" Hall C.W.	"	do.	
WX7619	" Pulland G.J.	"	do.	
WX4418	" Forrester F.J.	"	do.	

**3. DETACHMENT**

WX7131 Sgt Hartree L.R. Bn HQ To 2 Ech A.I.F. 5 May 42.

**4. DETENTION**

WX9965 Pte Willis J.W. A Coy To Ninth Army Field Punishment Centre. 9 May 42.

5. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX6180	L/Cpl Bowen P.J.	D Coy	6 May 42.
WX7153	Cpl Hagart P.C.	B Coy	27 Apr 42.
WX10027	Pte Longson R.	B Coy	1 May 42.
WX7175	Cpl Clifton G.G.	Bn HQ.	5 May 42.
WX9791	Pte Ducker J.E.	C Coy	6 May 42.
WX7568	L/Cpl Prosser C.W.	D Coy	7 May 42.
WX5019	S/Sgt Nicholls J.H.	HQ Coy	9 May 42.
WX5331	Pte Fry S.G.	A Coy	9 May 42.
WX8366	" Ramsden W.H.	Bn HQ	11 May 42.

6. HONOURS AND AWARDS

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES IN RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICES IN THE MIDDLE EAST DURING PERIOD FEB - JUL 41.

WX3346 Lt-col J.E. LLOYD D.S.O., M.C.

7. PROMOTIONS

WX7303	Sgt Rule E.D.	HQ Coy	To be Lieut 26 Apr 42. (Vide AIF List No 78.)
WX4442	A/Cpl Carr S.	"	Rank confirmed 8 May 42.
WX4415	" Adams P.	"	do.
WX6937	" Shove S.L.	"	do.
WX9606	" Bentley R.E.	"	do.
WX7090	" Nicholls J.R.	B Coy	do.
WX6614	" Smith H.H.	C Coy	do.
WX3168	" Barber G.S.	HQ Coy	do.

8. PUNISHMENTS.

WX9965	Pte Willis J.W.	A Coy	Did leave Camp area contrary to instructions. 14 days Field Punishment and forf 14 days pay. 8 May 42.
WX7051	Pte Clarke V.J.	HQ Coy	AWL. Fined £1. Forf 1 days pay 8 May 42.
WX11933	" Cochrane S.R.	A Coy	Did leave the camp area contrary to instructions. Fined £2. 8 May 42.
WX8931	" Lennox J.	"	Used insubordinate language to superior officer. Fined £2. 8 May 42.
WX8931	" Lennox J.	"	Disobeyed a lawful command. Fined £2 8 May 42.
WX6835	" Buck D.C.	HQ Coy	Left rifle in Guard House without taking proper precautions. 3 days C.B. 9 May 42.
WX3672	" Harris C.	"	Failing to appear at place of parade. 3 days C.B. 9 May 42.
WX4450	" Prochowick T	"	do.
WX4978	" Hopewell A.J.	"	AWL. Fined £3. 11 May 42.
WX4978	" Hopewell A.J.	"	Absent from place of parade. Fined £2. 11 May 42.
WX4476	" Monger S.	"	AWL. Fined 10/-. Forf 1 days pay. 11 May 42.
WX5070	" Woods V.	"	Improperly in possession of Army Ration. Fined £1. 11 May 42.
WX2617	" Bowen G.W.	C Coy	AWL. 5 days C.B. Forf 1 days pay. 11 May 42.
WX10093	" Monre R.J.	"	AWL. 5 days C.B. 11 May 42.
WX9619	" Murray E.A.	"	do.
WX5364	" Pickersgill E.C.	"	do.
WX5027	" Lennox F.W.T.	"	do.
WX10104	" Weeks T.B.	A Coy	do.

9. REJOINED UNIT

WX7056 Pte Barnett H.E. HQ Coy 6 May 42. Name removed from I List.  
 WX7372 " Fitzgerald W.J. " do.  
 WX7270 " Griffiths W.S. A Coy do.  
 WX5954 L/Cpl Drakes M.B. C Coy do.  
 WX3893 Pte Hanby C.A. D Coy do.  
 WX10027 " Longson R. B Coy 9 May 42. do.  
 WX7568 L/Cpl Prosser C.W. D Coy 10 May 42. do.  
 WX5789 Pte Hall C.W. D Coy From HQ, 24 A. Inf. Bde. 8 May 42.  
 (Ceases to be detached).

10. SCHOOLS AND COURSES

WX4983 L/Cpl Lawrence J.R. B Coy M.E. Gas Sch. No 19 Regtl Instrs  
 Crs. Qualified Q1.  
 WX5417 Cpl Wellington W.H. C Coy M.E.T.S. Junior Leader Course  
 No. 9. Qualified.

11. REVERSIONS

WX13376 A/Cpl Williams H.E. B Coy Reverts to Pte on joining from  
 reinforcements. 6 May 42.  
 WX13315 " Louden R.J. D Coy do.

12. TRADE-GROUPING

WX11944 Pte Cairns S.B. B Coy Relinquished TG ii (cook) 6 May 42.  
 WX4928 " Salter W.E. HQ Coy Relinquished A/TG ii (sig) 6 May 42.  
 WX7154 " Herbert R.M. " Apptd TG iii (clerk) 19 Apr 42.  
 WX9041 " Davies O.H. " Apptd TG iii (Dr. mech) 19 Apr 42.  
 WX4711 " Backhouse J.W. " Apptd TG iii (Dr. mech). 19 Apr 42.  
 WX15439 " Pilmer A.C. (AAOC Att.)  
 HQ Coy Relinquished TG iii (Dr. mech)  
 2 May 42.  
 WX15439 " Pilmer A.C. (AAOC Att.)  
 HQ Coy Apptd TG i. (Fitter - Motor Veh)  
 3 May 42.

12. TRANSFERS IN.

WX5810 L/Sgt Calladine W. (AAOC Att) HQ Coy From 24 A.I.T.B 6 May 42.  
 WX13274 Pte Cole W.A.S. A Coy From Reinforcements 6 May 42.  
 WX13347 " Hamilton A.H. " do.  
 WX12709 " Neil J. " do.  
 WX11944 " Cairns S.B. B Coy do.  
 WX13376 A/Cpl Williams H.E. " do.  
 WX12167 Pte Knight J.A.J. C Coy do.  
 WX11534 " Sibley G.W. " do.  
 WX13315 A/Cpl Louden R.J. D Coy do.  
 WX4979 Pte Sewell E.A. HQ Coy do.  
 WX12197 " Dawson E. C Coy do.  
 WX7131 Sgt Hartree L.R. Bn HQ From 9 Aust Spec Gp. 5 May 42.

13. TRANSFERS OUT

WX3409 Chap. Macdonald T.B. Bn HQ To 2/3 C.C.S. 7 May 42.  
 WX5102 Sgt Hopper J.B. " To 2 Ech A.I.F. 8 May 42.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 2 Ech, Offrs mess, Sgts mess, Band Sgt,  
 Notice bd, Guard Commander,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D & 10 Pl (2 each).

*Robert [unclear] Capt.*  
 Adjt 2/28 Aust [unclear] Bn.

M O S T S E C R E T

42/2.

HQ, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn,  
In the Field.  
13 May 42. 6

WARNING ORDER

1. To enable advanced training to be carried out 24 Aust Inf Bde will be relieved from its present defensive posns for a period of one month.
2. 2/28 Aust Inf Bn will be relieved by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn on 20 May 42.
3. Coys will move with all W.E. at present held.
4. 2/28 Bn will occupy 2/23 Bn's present area during 20 May - 5 Jun thence proceeding to a tng area EAST of HOMS from 5 Jun - 19 Jun, returning to Fortress to re-occupy present posn on 20 Jun 42.
5. Further details regarding handover, accommodation stores, tentage, tpt etc will be made available when received.
6. It is anticipated that Officers' heavy luggage and men's kit bags will be stored under Bn arrangements.

The above may be passed on to officers only and this document destroyed by fire by 2000 hrs 14 May 42.

DISTRIBUTION

HQ Coy 1.  
Coys - A, B, C & D (1 each),  
File, War Diary (2).

*Raymond Lamb*  
.....Capt.  
Adjnt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

42/29.

HQ, 2/28 Aust In  
In the Field.  
14 May 42/

LEAVE.

1. Advice has been received that all tps in the A.I.F. will each receive 7 days leave.
2. 9 Aust Div personnel will NOT be permitted to leave SYRIA and leave camps will be provided at various centres, two of which are known to be DAMASCUS and BEIRUT.
3. Personnel granted such leave must stay at a leave camp, where accommodation and meals will be free.
4. It is not known when the above will come into operation but the information may be passed on to all ranks to enable them to "save up" where necessary.
5. Not more than 10% per Unit will be granted leave at the same time.
6. Further details will be advised when available.

NOTE : Other forces, namely British and N.Z. will probably be granted leave in periods of 14 days each. The A.I.F. wish to ensure that all members first secure SEVEN days leave and on conclusion of this period the position will then be reviewed and a further period of SEVEN days MAY be made available.

DISTRIBUTION :

Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D.  
File, War Diary (2).

*Leyman Lamb*  
Adj't 2/28 Aust In Capt. In.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit.)

**PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.**

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	1		
Captains ...	3		
Lieutenants ...	6 } 9		1
<del>2nd Lieutenants</del> <i>6 } 3 } Capts incl OM</i>	23	4	
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...			
<b>Totals</b> ...	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

**Officers JOINED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>WX 3391</i>	<i>Capt. Hewbery J.B.</i>	<i>2/28 Bn</i>	<i>9.5.42</i>	<i>From METS No 15 Coy Condors Course</i>

**Officers QUITTED during week.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>WX 3400</i>	<i>Lieut. Waring E.</i>	<i>2/28 Bn</i>	<i>6.3.42</i>	<i>Seconded for duty as OC 3 AAME Unit AIF list No 78.</i>

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj	T/Lt.-col	Loughrey J.	2/28 Bn	Yes	co.
"		Cox J.P.	"	"	2 1/2
"		Brennan J.S.	"	"	oc. HQ Coy
"		Dunline W.A.	"	"	" B
Capt		Thompson J.B.	"	"	" D
"		Simpson B.	"	"	" C
"		Northwood V.R.	"	"	" A
"		Stenhouse J.R.	"	"	2 1/2 B
"		Yewbery J.C.	"	"	" A
"		Taylor A.L.F.	"	"	" C
Lieut		Keall S.	"	"	10.
"	T/Capt	Lamb L.	"	"	Adjt
"		Wassell P.	"	"	Pl Comdr
"		Friedman S.J.	"	"	"
"	T/Capt	Jones G.H.	"	"	Q.M.
"		Ellis C.E.	"	"	Pl Comdr
"		Head J.W.	"	"	"
"		Hall R.J.	"	"	"
"		Norris H.C.	"	"	"
"		Camble J.S.	"	"	"
"		Walker S.A.J.	"	"	"
"		Robertson J.P.	"	"	"
"		Hickey M.	"	"	"
"		Stewart R.S.	"	"	A 2 1/2 D Coy
"		Parry E.L.W.	"	"	Pl Comdr
"		Piper J.W.	"	"	"
"		Harrod E.C.	"	"	"
"		Eastman E.A.	"	"	"
"		Bird N.H.T.	"	"	"
"		Crean G.R.	"	"	"
"		Becker S.S.	"	"	"
"		Chadwick R.F.	"	"	"
"		Morris G.D.	"	NO	9 Dn P.T. School
"		Draper J.W.	"	yes	"
"		Osborne J.W.K.	"	"	"
"		Keogh J.D.	"	"	Supernumerary

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
QX 19059	Capt	Briddis K.W.	2/28 Bn	17.7.41	R.M.O.
SX 14196	Chaplain	Swan C.M.	10 A.A.D.	4.5.42	Chaplain
WX 6805	Lieut	Bateman C.W.R.	24 A.I.T.B.	17.12.41	% over W.E.
WX 11087	"	Thomas E.	"	20.12.41	
WX 11086	"	Price A.S.	"	27.4.42	
WX 11078	"	Blountman W.T.G.	"	20.3.42	

2/28 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)  
16 May 42 (Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander)  
24 Aust Inf Bn





2/28 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
General duty personnel															
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)	1							1				12			13

2/28 Aust Inf Bde Unit.  
Date of Despatch 16 May 42

Signature of Commander Lt-col  
24 Aust Inf Bde  
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

OFFICERS ONLY

HQ, 2/28 Aust Inf Bn,  
In the Field.  
16 May 42.

*War Diary*

2/28 AUST INF BN

INSTNS FOR CEREMONIAL PARADE.

Ref Map TRIPOLI 1/50,000

1. GENERAL

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER will inspect troops of 9 Aust Div at 1135 hrs on 19 May 42 at ENFEH aerodrome.

TROOPS

2. PARADE

24 Aust Inf Bde group will be commanded by Lt-col D.A. WHITEHEAD, M.C., and will be known as group E.

The group will consist of the following :-

- (a) H.Q. 24 Aust Inf Bde 24 O/Rs.
- (b) 2/28 Aust Inf Bn 1 Major 1 Capt 3 Lieuts 195 O/Rs.
- (c) 2/32 Aust Inf Bn 1 Major, 1 Capt 3 Lieuts 195 O/Rs.
- (d) 2/43 Aust Inf Bn 1 Major 1 Capt 3 Lieuts 195 O/Rs.

3. BN PERSONNEL TO ATTEND

- O.C. Bn Group; Major M.A. BUNTINE.
- H.Q. Coy; Lieut J.M. HEAD.  
Two Sgts.  
57 Cpls and O/Rs.
- A Coy : Lieut J.D. KEOGH.  
One Sgt.  
33 Cpls and O/Rs.
- B Coy : One Sgt.  
28 Cpls and O/Rs.
- C Coy : Capt A.L.F. TAYLOR.  
One Sgt.  
33 Cpls and O/Rs.
- D Coy : Lieut R.F. CHADWICK.  
One Sgt.  
38 Cpls and O/Rs.

No. 2 Pl ) To move to parade ground independently.  
Bn Band )

4. FORMATION

(a) The Group will be formed up in open order. Officers will be fallen out in review order.

(b) Cautionary orders of the Officer Command Parade will be repeated by the Gp Comd.  
Tps will act on the executive orders of the Gp Comd, which will be co-ordinated.

(c) The following procedure will be adopted on the arrival of H.R.H.

- (i) Royal Salute - Present Arms.
- (ii) Slope Arms.
- (iii) Order Arms.
- (iv) Inspection by H.R.H.
- (v) Address by H.R.H. (Doubtful).
- (vi) Slope Arms.
- (vii) Royal Salute - Present Arms (On Departure).

a/.

**4. FORMATION (CONT).**

- (d) On the order "Royal Salute - Present Arms", all Officers on parade will salute, and all unarmed other ranks will stand to attention.
- (e) The frontage of 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp will NOT exceed 85 yards.

**5. DRESS :**

Dress will be :-

- (a) Officers - Shorts, Shirts, Hats (turned up) Boots, Puttees, Web Drill Order, Pistols.
- (b) O/Rs. - Shorts, Shirts, Hats (turned up) Boots, Puttees, Web Drill Order, Bayonet, Rifle.

**6. TIMING.**

Gp will be in position on the parade ground at 1030 hrs on the day of the parade.

**7. A.A. PROTECTION**

- (a) A.A. protection from this Bde will be provided by A.A. Pl 2/28 Aust Inf Bn and will be under command of 37 Lt A.A. Regt.
- (b) A.A. L.M.G.s. will be ready for action but chamber will be empty.
- (c) Alarm signal for air raid, initiated by O.C. 37 Lt A.A. Regt - a succession of short whistle blasts repeated by Officers in command of Gps.
- (d) Action on alarm - Gps will be marched to EAST side of main rd - North and South - Gps then turn North and South respectively. Centre Gp moved forward to East. Remaining gps will move N.E. and S.E. until all Gps are well dispersed. Ips of each Gp will then disperse and lie down.
- (e) A.A. Pl will move independently and will report O.C. 37 Lt A.A. Regt at parade ground at 0800 hrs 19 May 42.

**8. SPECTATORS.**

Comd Officers may attend, but no other personnel will be permitted to attend.

**9. TRANSPORT**

Unit vehicles will be allocated as under :-

HQ Coy	-	3	30 cwt.		
A Coy	-	1	3 ton.	-	1 15 cwt.
B Coy	-	1	3 ton.	-	1 15 cwt.
C Coy	-	1	3 ton.	-	1 15 cwt.
D Coy	-	2	30 cwt.		
Band	-	1	30 cwt.		
A.A.Pl	-	2	15 cwt.		

**10. ASSEMBLY AREAS**

- (a) Bde Assembly Area : Road Tripoli - Ramlich with head of convoy 50 yds S.E. of br 16732750.
- (b) Bn Assembly Area : Road Tripoli - Ramlich at 16802747 (D.I.D. turn off).

e/

10. ASSEMBLY AREA (CONT)

(c) Coys to move independently to Bn Assembly Area and be in position to move by 0745 hrs 19 May 42.

11. ORDER OF MARCH from Bn assembly area :

- B Coy
- C Coy
- HQ Coy
- D Coy

12. SPEED AND DENSITY

15 M.I.H. and 20 V.T.M.

13. DEBUSSING AND EMBUSSING

(a) Personnel will debuss in dispersal areas and march to the parade ground.

(b) Drivers will remain with their vehicles while in the dispersal area.

14. B AND

(a) 2/28 Bn Band will move independently and will be at the parade ground NOT later than 0830 hrs 19 May 42.

(b) T.O. to ensure that the Band's tpt report Bn HQ by 0720 hrs 19 May 42.

15. ACTION ON AIR ALARM

(a) In the event of AIR ALARM when vehicles are in dispersal area drivers will dismount from vehicles and stand by them, taking fire extinguishers with them.

(b) Should a direct air attack take place, drivers will remain with their vehicles, but will lie down.

16. GENERAL.

The strictest adherence to timings, routes, speed and density is absolutely essential so as to ensure that there is no confusion with other convoys en route.

17. ADM

D Coy personnel will stage at Rear HQ night 18/19 May 42.

18. REHEARSAL

A Bde rehearsal will be held at 2/32 Bn HQ at 1400 hrs 18 May 42. Tpt will report to Coys areas asunder :-

- (a) A, B, C Coys 1300 hrs 18 May.
- (b) D Coy 1200 hrs 18 May.

Tpt will report with personnel as in (a) and remain in Coy areas overnight.

19. MEALS

(a) Cut lunch and tea will be carried in vehicles for all personnel, under Coy arrangements.

(b) Lunch will be eaten by personnel immediately after the parade and prior to leaving dispersal area.

(c) H.Q. Coy, D Coy and Band personnel will breakfast at Rear H.Q. at 0630 hrs 19 May 42.

20. BOOTS

As units will have to march from dispersal area to parade ground and a rehearsal will take place men will carry material to polish boots before the parade.

21. LATRINES

One shovel G.S. will be carried in each vehicle for digging shallow trench latrines in dispersal area. Trenches will be filled in before departure.

22. AMM

20 rds per man will be carried. Sub Unit Comds will ensure that NO rds are carried in magazine of rifles.

*Robert Lamb* Capt. Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D (1 each),  
Q.M., T.O., File, War Diary (2).

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O. No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN TELE FIELD.  
16 MAY 42 (660 DAY).

*War Diary*

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 330

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. CHURCH SERVICES - SUNDAY 17 MAY 42.

Anglican and Protestant Denominations.

0730 hrs Holy Communion, YMCA Recreation Hut, Bn HQ Area.

0900 hrs Church Parade in YMCA Recreation Hut, Bn HQ Area, Parade to be formed up on main roadway near hut at 0850 hrs.

Dress: Summer dress, belt web, hats turned up.

R.C.: 1000 hrs. Mass in village church at 24 Bde HQ.

2. REGISTER OF ARMS AND TECHNICAL STORES

Instructions of 17 Mar 42 in connection with the above are not being strictly carried out.

Following are irregularities noted :-

1. "X" List personnel and those returning from M.D.S. have on occasions removed their rifle from Bn Armoury without reference to Q.M. for signature.
2. Rifles for repairs have at times been forwarded by Coys for repairs minus slings, bolts and magazines.
3. Some rifles have been handed direct to Armourer at Bn HQ for repair.

Coys will ensure that all personnel are aware of the contents of the instruction particularly paras 2, 3 and 5 and will see that they are enforced in the future.

3. ARMY DRIVING LICENCES.

Names of units will be deleted forthwith from all Army Driving Licences (A.A.F. G.11) and will NOT in future be entered therein. (Ref A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No. 1084).

4. ALLOTMENT OF PAY - ACTING RANK AND ACTING TRADE CLASSIFICATION.

Approval is given for soldiers granted acting rank and acting trade classification to increase their allotments if they so desire.

Before such allotment is increased, the soldier will be warned that any overpayment caused by the continuance of such increased allotment, after his reversion to substantive rank or relinquishment of trade classification, will be liquidated by restricting his drawing rate.

It is therefore incumbent on the soldier to reduce his allotment immediately he reverts to substantive rank or relinquishes his trade classification.

A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No. 148 of 25th December, 1940, is amended by deleting para 6, and

A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No. 948 of 19th January, 1942, is amended by deleting para 1 (e). (Ref A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No. 1089).

**5. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CASUALTIES**

1. The effective date of casualties will be determined as follows:-

**PROMOTIONS, REVERSIONS, Etc.** The effective date is that date mentioned in Unit Part II Orders, and any variation of pay will operate on and from the date, e.g. :

A Pte promoted to Cpl. on 1 May, 42 will be paid as a Cpl on and from that date. A Cpl reverted to the ranks on 1 May, 42 will be eligible for pay as a Cpl on 30 April, 42 and as a Pte on and from 1 May, 42.

**TRADE GROUPINGS.** A specialist (Pte) who is promoted will relinquish his trade grouping on the date prior to that on which he is promoted, e.g. :

A specialist promoted to Cpl on 1 May, 42 will be eligible for pay as a specialist up to and including 30 April, 42 and his pay as a Cpl will commence on 1 May, 42. He will be shown in Part II Orders as :-

Relinquished Trade Grouping, Grade (--) 30/4/42  
Promoted Cpl. 1/5/42

2. A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No. 110 of 22nd November, 1940, is cancelled.  
(Ref A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No 1090).

**6. INTESTINAL DISEASES**

Cases admitted to hospitals and C.R.S.'s, suffering from dysentery, enteritis, etc., are increasing in number.

That this increase represents a seasonal incidence due predominantly to the prevalence of flies is obvious, and it devolves upon all unit commanders, orderly officers and medical officers to ensure that no effort is spared to remove the possibilities of fly breeding, protect food from contamination, and destroy adult insects.

Aust Fd Hyg Secs are at all times prepared to demonstrate methods of fly control to representatives of units seeking such advice.  
(Ref A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No 1093).

**7. VEHICLE SUPERSTRUCTURES**

It is reported that approximately 30 per cent of vehicles are being evacuated for repair without superstructures. As there is a great shortage of the necessary tubular frame to make good this deficiency, in all instances vehicles being evacuated will be complete with superstructure, whatever its condition, and in no circumstances will this be removed for use as shelter or other purpose.

(Ref A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No. 1097).

**8. BATTERIES, GASKETS AND SPARK PLUGS - RECOVERY AND RECONDITIONING.**

Owing to the necessity for vigorous economy, installations have been set up for the repair and reconditioning of batteries, gaskets and spark plugs.

All repairable and unserviceable stores of these types will be carefully packed and returned to the Ordnance Field Park or Depot from which replacements were issued.

Ordnance installations receiving these stores will forward them to 6 Adv. Ord. Depot, R.A.O.C., for reconditioning in "B" Base Ord. Workshops, R.A.O.C.

.....ent.

B BATTERIES, GASKETS AND SPARK PLUGS - RECOVERY AND RECONDITIONING  
(CONT.)

It is essential when replacements are made by the issue of serviceable stores that immediate action be taken by all units to return an equal quantity of repairable or unserviceable items to Ordnance. If the stores are not available for return a certificate will be rendered by the O.C. of the unit concerned explaining why.

A.I.F. (M.E) Order 999 of 9th February, 1942, is cancelled.  
(Ref A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No 1098).

9. SALVAGE OF WASTE OIL

There are three main grades of oil in general use in the Army :-

- (a) engine oil (M.160 and M.220)
- (b) gear and axle oil (C.600)
- (c) furnace fuel, diesel or pan oil :

(a) and (b) are M.T. oils supplied entirely from abroad.  
(c) is produced locally and costs only about one-third of the present market price in Egypt of waste M.T. oil.

It has now been decided that in order to economize in shipping space, waste M.T. oils will be handed over to oil refining companies for regeneration, and re-issued for further use.

The use of M.T. oils for sanitary, cooking and other purposes will cease forthwith -

- (a) In base and L. of C areas where fuel oil should always be available from D.I.D.'s, on demand.
- (b) In forward areas if fuel oil is obtainable.

The procedure for recovery of waste M.T. oils is as follows :-

- (a) All waste M.T. oils will be collected and handed over either direct to Salvage Depots or Salvage Units or via Petrol Depots in empty returning transport.
- (b) Waste engine and gear oil will be collected in separate containers. A mixture of the two grades cannot be successfully regenerated, and would therefore represent a complete waste of effort.
- (c) Waste engine oil from sumps will be collected in empty drums which have previously contained M.160 or M.220.
- (d) Waste gear and axle oils will be collected together in drums which have previously contained C.600.
- (e) Drums containing used oils will be securely stoppered and the greatest care must be taken by units to distinguish between :
  - (i) Drums of new M.T. oil
  - (ii) Drums of waste M.T. oil.
  - (iii) Drums of fuel oil.

Disciplinary action will be taken in every case where this order is not complied with.

(Ref A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No. 1100).



PART 1B

1. INTER COY TRANSFER

WX5090 Pte CROUCHLEY J. H Q Coy To Bn HQ 12 May 42.

2. APPOINTMENTS

WX4481 Pte Winter I.O. HQ Coy Apphd L/Opl. 14 May 42.  
WX7297 " Collie P.X.J. A Coy do.

3. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH.

WX10046 Pte Mead V.H. B Coy 14 May 42.  
WX6762 " Robinson H. HQ Coy "  
WX9983 " Snell W.L.T. A Coy "

4. PROMOTION

WX6611 Pte Whitmore B.W. H Q Coy To be A/Opl. 12 May 42.

5. PUNISHMENTS

WX5721 Pte Bl owfield G.O. D Coy AWL. Fined £5. Auto Poff  
3 days pay. 13 May 42.  
WX12000 " O'Donoghue J.P. C Coy AWL. 5 days C.B. 12 May 42.

6. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST.

WX7018 Pte Barrett J. A Coy 13 May 42.  
WX5019 S/Sgt Nicholls J.H. H Q Coy "  
WX7175 Cpl Clifton G.G. Bn HQ 15 May 42.  
WX8366 Pte Ramsden W.H. " "  
WX9791 " Ducker J.E. G Coy "

7. REVERSION

WX5090 Opl Crouchley J. HQ Coy Reverts to Pte at own request  
(9 Aust Div auth. A 98/1/2455) 12 May 42.

8. TRADE GROUPING

WX6830 Pte Minchin G.W.B. HQ Coy A/TG ii confirmed. 14 May 42.  
WX5450 " Hudson G.P.F. " do.  
WX5137 " Bain C.R.J. " do.  
WX5090 " Crouchley J. Bn HQ Apptd TG ii (Drt) 12 May 42.  
WX6611 " Whitmore B.W. HQ Coy Relinquish TG i (Bricklayer)  
on promotion to A/Opl. 11 May 42.

9. SECONDMENT

WX3400 Lieut E. Waring D Coy Seconded for duty with No. 3  
Aust Anti Malarial Control Unit.  
6 Mar 42.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Opl,  
Notice bd, Officers' mess, Sgts mess, 2 Ech,  
Amenities Officer, File, Band Sgt, Guard Commander,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D & 10 Pl. (2 each).

*Leeman* Capt.  
Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

**NOTICES :**

**Australian Comforts Fund :**

Receipt is acknowledged of the following comforts for  
distribution :

Writing Pads	199	
Envelopes	1,000	
Tobacco 1 oz pkts	1,592	ozs
Papers	816	pkts
Socks	200	prs

**PENTECOST SERVICE**

A Pentecost Service will be held at TRIPOLI Synagogue at  
0930 hrs on 22 May 42.

All Jewish personnel may attend.

2/28

Ref:- A 19/2/2585

MOST SECRET

OFFICER ONLY

H.Q., 9 Aust Div.  
17 May 42.

Copy No. 15

*CO at Bde*  
*1400*  
*[Signature]*

RV FOR OFFRS TO MEET H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

Ref Map TRIPOLI Special 1/50,000.

1. Arrangements have been made for H.R.H. to meet the senior officers of this formation at 16622802 at 1450 hrs on 19 May 42.
2. Officers attending will report to Brig R.W. TOVELL D.S.O., E.D. at the RV not before 1435 hrs and not later than 1445 hrs.
3. Vehicles will be parked on the NORTHERN side of the TRIPOLI - LATTAKIA Rd.
4. D.A.P.M., 9 Aust Div will arrange an M.P. guide to halt and park the vehicles.
5. The following officers will attend:-

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| C.R.A., 9 Aust Div        | C.O., 2/28 Aust Inf Bn  |
| Comd., 20 Aust Inf Bde    | " 2/32 Aust Inf Bn      |
| " 24 Aust Inf Bde         | " 2/43 Aust Inf Bn      |
| " 26 Aust Inf Bde         | " 2/23 Aust Inf Bn      |
| C.O., 9 Aust Div Cav Regt | " 2/24 Aust Inf Bn      |
| C.R.E., 9 Aust Div        | " 2/48 Aust Inf Bn      |
| C.O., 2/7 Aust Fd Regt    | " 2/2 Aust MG Bn        |
| " 2/8 Aust Fd Regt        | C.A.A.S.C., 9 Aust Div  |
| " 2/12 Aust Fd Regt       | C.O., 2/3 Aust Fd Amb   |
| " 3 Aust A.Tk Regt        | " 2/8 Aust Fd Amb       |
| " Sigs 9 Aust Div         | " 2/11 Aust Fd Amb      |
| " 2/13 Aust Inf Bn        | " 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops |
| " 2/15 Aust Inf Bn        |                         |
| " 2/17 Aust Inf Bn        |                         |

Ref Map TRIPOLI Special 1/50,000.

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

DISTRIBUTION:-

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- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| 9 Aust Div Cav Regt   | 1       |
| R.A.A., 9 Aust Div    | 2 - 7   |
| R.A.E., 9 Aust Div    | 8       |
| Sigs., 9 Aust Div     | 9       |
| 20 Aust Inf Bde       | 10 - 13 |
| 24 Aust Inf Bde       | 14 - 17 |
| 26 Aust Inf Bde       | 18 - 21 |
| 2/2 Aust MG Bn        | 22      |
| A.A.S.C., 9 Aust Div  | 23      |
| A.D.M.S., 9 Aust Div  | 24 - 27 |
| 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops | 28      |
| "G"                   | 29      |
| Comd                  | 30      |
| A.Q.                  | 31      |

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
18 MAY 42 (662 DAY)

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART I A  
No 351

*War Diary*

BY IFCOL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. POSTAL --- DISCLOSURE OF LOCATION OF UNITS BY MILITARY PERSONNEL.

(a) A widespread disregard of Field Censorship Regulations and the ordinary dictates of security is existent. Units, messes and officers, particularly of Base Installations, constantly offend by disclosing to tradesmen, banks and the like, the name and location of their particular unit.

(b) To give personnel sufficient time to notify their correct Military Address to correspondents and also to warn correspondents against using incorrect forms of address, a period of grace will be granted.

(c) All correspondence addressed to Military Formations, Units or Personnel, disclosing location, will be returned to the sender as undeliverable.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 318).

2. SECURITY --- DESTRUCTION OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARIES

(a) Subject to any necessary cutting for collation purposes, all Intelligence Summaries, whether issued by this H.Q. or by higher Formations, will be burnt within ten days of receipt.

(b) During active operations all Intelligence Summaries will be burnt within forty-eight hours of receipt.

(c) Formations and SubUnits will review their files immediately and will ensure that destruction, in accordance with this order is completed without delay.

Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 320).

3. SECURITY

(a) All ranks will carry pay-books or identity cards at all times for identification purposes.

(b) All sentries will be instructed that they will examine the pay-book or identity card of every individual approaching their post, by day or by night, if the identity of that individual is not personally known to them. This order will be carried out irrespective of rank or of the uniform (AIF, British, Dominion or Allied) that the individual may be wearing.

(c) If any individual fails to produce a pay-book or identity card, the sentry will on no account permit him to enter military premises or areas without first securing the authority of an officer personally known to him.

(d) Sentries will be instructed to scrutinise carefully all passes carried by civilians and will be warned that permits to carry on business - as boot-blacks, etc., will NOT be considered as authority to enter military premises or areas.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 321).

4. VISITS TO SOUTHERN PALESTINE.

Under no conditions will any visits be made to Southern PALESTINE by any officers or personnel, without authority from this H.Q. as it is now AIF HQ Area.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 334).

**5. DESTRUCTION OF BATHING BOXES -- HAKIM PLAGE.**

- (a) Troops are removing planks from the bathing boxes of Hakim Plage, South of TRIPOLI, thereby completely destroying them.
- (b) This is looting and will cease forthwith.
- (c) In future, the C.O. of any unit from which personnel are apprehended, committing a breach of this order, will be held personally responsible for the men's actions.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 322.)

**6. LAUNDRY**

Personnel will be informed that after 18 May 42 and until further notice clothing will not be given to civilians for laundering.

**7. CIVIL CEREMONIES --- ATTENDANCE AT.**

Unit Commanders will issue instructions that NO officer may attend official civil ceremonies until he has taken the advice of this H.Q. or has consulted the local Political Officer.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 339.)

**8. CULTIVATED AREAS**

- (a) With the approach of harvest season units should exercise particular care in regard to the avoidance of damage to crops and olive trees.
- (b) The question of controlling the owners of the land during the harvest is being considered, but units must expect an additional number of civilians in their vicinity and security measures will therefore be maintained at a high level.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 340.)

**9. USE OF PRIMUS STOVES AND NAKED LIGHTS IN TENTS.**

The use of primus stoves or naked lights in tents will cease forthwith.  
Any further losses due to fires caused by disobedience of this order will be charged against the C.O. or individual concerned.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 341.)

**10. AIRGRAPH ENVELOPES --- RECOVERY OF**

In the interests of economy all 'Airgraph' envelopes which are fit for re-use will be collected by Units and returned in bulk to the nearest A.P.O.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 342.)

**11. SECURITY INSTRUCTIONS FOR DRIVERS OF W.D. VEHICLES**

Standing orders for drivers of mechanical vehicles lay down that unauthorised passengers will not be carried in or permitted to ride on or attempt to drive any W.D. vehicle.

Any driver of a W.D. vehicle who has grounds for suspecting the bona fides of a stranger who asks for a lift may and should request the stranger, whether officer, other rank or civilian, to show proof of his identity. All ranks will comply with such request.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 348.)

**12. CARTONS, ANTI-GAS STORES.**

Attention is drawn to the necessity for careful handling of cartons for anti-gas stores. These cartons can be utilised several times; therefore, all serviceable surplus cartons will be returned to the nearest Ordnance Depot or Railhead Ordnance Officer.  
(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No 355.)

-----3-----

**13. ARMY POSTAL SERVICES -- ALLIED FORCES SERVING IN EGYPT.**

The Egyptian Postal Administration has generously agreed to afford the same privileges of free postage on ordinary letters posted by members of the Allied Forces serving in Egypt as are now enjoyed by the Imperial Forces. The conditions governing this concession are repeated for information :

- (a) The concession applies to letters posted to destinations within the British Empire or the Interior of Egypt, but not to other countries.
- (b) The limits of weight will be two ounces for all parts of the British Empire, and thirty grammes for Egyptian addressees.
- (c) The covers of all letters should be marked "On active Service".
- (d) All letters must be posted in an Army Post Office.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 349.)

**14. COURTS MARTIAL -- WITNESSES FOR.**

Many cases have recently occurred of persons subject to Military Law being kept in arrest for an unreasonable length of time and their trial by Court Martial delayed owing to witnesses having been posted away from, or left, the station.

In future, all Officers, W.O., N.C.O.s. and Men whose evidence has been recorded in a summary of evidence will not on any account be posted away from or leave the station without reference to the authority whose duty it is to convene the Court Martial in the particular instance.

Casualties amongst such witnesses through wounds or sickness will be reported to the convening authority and the fact of their being waiting witnesses at a Court Martial reported on the Casualty Report.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 350.)

**15. FIELD CENSORSHIP.**

The Next of Kin of all casualties is notified as soon as possible after the casualty occurs. It is earnestly desired to shield relatives from the unnecessary suffering that might be caused / wrong information being sent by individuals albeit with the best intentions. Therefore private cables and telegrams reporting individual casualties are forbidden. Such telegrams, whether handed in by Officers, other ranks, their wives, families, dependents, or private individuals, will be stopped by censorship. No refund of transmission charges paid on such telegrams will be considered. Details in regard to casualties maybe given in letters. When writing, details may be given in letters despatched by ORDINARY mail only and will NOT be given in letters sent by AIRMAIL.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 351.)

PART 1B

**1. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH**

WX6794	Pte	Birch	N.M.	Bn HQ	16 May 42.
WX10019	"	Macey	F.G.	B Coy	"
WX4412	"	Corboy	T.B.	H Q Coy	"
WX4437	"	Lec	R.J.	"	17 May 42.
WX5387	"	Criddle	N.J.	D Coy	"
WX5019	S/Sgt	Nicholls	J.H.	HQ Coy	"
WX7091	Pte	Hondren	W.	"	"
WX7270	"	Griffiths	W.S.	A Coy	18 May 42.
WX8920	"	Daly	J.	HQ Coy	"
WX3628	"	Papprill	P.H.	"	4 May 42.
WX8673	"	Murray	P.H.	A Coy	18 May 42.

2. REJOINED UNIT

WX6525 Lieut Monro A.D. B Coy From 9 Aust Div P.T. Sch. 16 May 42.  
 WX11977 Pte Gard B.W. " From 9 Aust Div P.T. Sch. (Batman) 16 May 42.  
 WX7153 Cpl Hagart P.C. " From 2/8 Fd Amb (Name removed from X List). 16 May 42.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 Notice bd, Offrs mess, Sgts mess, 2 Ech,  
 File, Band Sgt, Guard Commander,  
 Coys - HQ, A, B, C, D & 10 Pl (2 each).

*James Lamb*  
 Adj 2/28 Aust Inf Bn. Capt.

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 355.)

(Ref 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 351.)

PART 1B

1. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF ROSTERS

Serial	Rank	Name	Unit
15 May 42.	Pvt	Woods	B Coy
"	"	Woods	B Coy
"	"	Woods	B Coy
14 May 42.	"	Woods	B Coy
"	"	Woods	B Coy
"	"	Woods	B Coy
"	"	Woods	B Coy
13 May 42.	"	Woods	B Coy
"	"	Woods	B Coy
4 May 42.	"	Woods	B Coy
12 May 42.	"	Woods	B Coy

REF MAPS : TRIPOLI 1/50,000  
LEVANT SERIES 1/200,000

21 May 42

Copy No. 22

2/28 AUST INF BN OP INSTN NO 1.

INFORM

1. Enemy.

- (a) It is considered probable that enemy activity of all kinds in SYRIA and PALESTINE will coincide with enemy action in LIBYA, with increased possibility of landings on SYRIAN Coasts.
- (b) The following are considered likely :-
  - (i) Agents and small sabotage parties landed from submarines.
  - (ii) Commandos and raiding parties of varying strengths from fast motor landing craft.

2. Own Troops.

- (a) Coast watching dets are manned.
- (b) Security Guard of one Pl mounted at CHEKKA Tunnel.
- (c) Units located near Coast are responsible for defence of beaches in their vicinity.
- (d) 24 Aust Inf Bde has been allotted, for additional defence, a sector excl CARACOL, 159274, to excl AABARJA, 141233.

3. Ground.

- (a) On calm nights, landings are possible at many points.
- (b) Likely enemy objectives incl CHEKKA Tunnel and Military Hqs.

INTENTION

4. 2/28 Aust Inf Bn will assist coast defence by providing CD Mob Coy, and assuming role of Mob Bn.

METHOD

5. Troops taking part.

CD Mob Coy will comprise :-

- Comd - OC Coy
  - One rifle Coy
  - 3 manned carriers
  - 2 mortar dets in carriers or 15 cwts.
  - 2 MG DRS.
  - 1 RAP Vehicle.
  - Wireless Van
  - One Pl M.M.Gs.
- 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.  
L Sec Sig, 9 Aust Div.  
2/2 Aust Inf Bn.

One MT Sec (Eight 3-ton vehicles) 10 Coy A.A.S.C.

6. CD Mob Coy will be maintained DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS at 30 mins notice to move.

7. Order to Assemble.

- (a) On sig from 24 Aust Inf Bde "TURN OUT CD MOB COY" will notify duty officer, who will :-
  - (i) Order duty bugler to sound turn out call (3 Gs rptd several times).
  - (ii) Telephone Coy Comd concerned.
  - (iii) Telephone Carrier and Mortar Officer.
  - (iv) Notify Adjt.
  - (v) Notify RAP personnel.



(b) Action to be taken on turn out call: -

- (i) Coy Comd will IMMEDIATELY report to HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde for orders.
- (ii) Carrier Offr and Mortar Offr will order and supervise RV of their carriers with Coy concerned.
- (iii) Wireless Van will report from HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde and join Coy concerned.
- (iv) Coy will embuss under orders Coy 2 i/c, and move out of Coy lines, halting with leading veh at junc of rd TRIPOLI - BECHMEZZINE and rd TRIPOLI - AMIOUNE 15802650 to RV with Coy Comd returning with orders from HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.
- (e) Pl M.M.Gs will report to Coy Comd at a RV which will be ordered by HQ 9 Aust Div.

8. Time Factor.

CD Mob Coy should be halted, ready to move, at junc ref para 7 (b) (iv) above, within 20 mins of turn out call.

9. Tasks.

- CD Mob Coy may be ordered to :-
- (a) Reinforce positional tps.
  - (b) Oppose attempted enemy landings.

10. Res.

When CD Mob Coy is called out, remainder of Bn will be held ready to move ONE HR after CD Mob Coy has left. Normal leave facilities for tps other than CD Mob Coy will continue.

11. Allotment of Duty.

As per Roster separately issued.

12. Recces.

Recces of undermentioned areas will be carried out by all rifle Coy Comds, Sig Offr, Carrier Offr, Mortar Offr before 23 May :-

- (a) Security Gd at CHEKKA Tunnel.
- (b) Beach NORTH of EL KALMOUNE.
- (c) Beach NORTH of BATROUNE.
- (d) General area of CD responsibility.

ADM

13. Wpns. QM will ensure that CD Mob Coy and att details are, as far as possible, equipped to G1098 scale.

14. Amn. Normal allotments on man and with gun will accompany CD Mob Coy and Bn. This to include 40 Mark 36 Hand Grenades to be drawn daily from R.S.M. Bn res amn will accompany Bn. Bren mags will be loaded each night in anticipation.

15. Tpt.

(a) T.O. to provide nightly 1 - 15 cwt and 1 - 30 cwt vehicle to report CD Coy area by 1830. These vehicles will return to tpt lines at Reveille.

16. Loading.

On arrival of vehicles, Coy will load them with amn and rations and will picquet them (amn issues and loading of Bren mags will be commenced in the vehicles, immediately tps embuss on turn out).

17. Rations

- (a) One days reserve rations on man.
- (b) Extra days reserve rations in vehs.

**18. Veh Alletment.**

- (a) Leading veh 15 cwt - Coy Comd.
- (b) One 3 ton veh - Coy HQ.
- (c) Two vehs per Pl, leading one for Pl HQ and one Sec, other for remaining two secs.
- (d) One veh for CQMS, stores etc.

19. Pol for 100 miles will be carried by all vehs, in addition to full tanks.

20. Tools. -- As made available by Q.M., tools up to scale of 12 picks and 1 2 shevels per Pl will be loaded into vehs.

21. Medical -- RAP orderly and four stretcher-bearers will turn out, and embuss at Bn RAP in veh detailed by T.O., joining tail of convey when it moves out of camp rd to rd TRIPOLI - AMIOUNE.

**INTER-COMM**

22. Reports. -- Bn Duty Officer will report progress by telephone to Duty Officer 24 Aust Inf Bde, as follows :-

- (a) 25 mins after receipt of turn out order -- present state of det.
- (b) Time of departure of det, immediately it leaves.

23. DRs. -- On arrival in area of ops, one DR will return to report location of det to Bn abd Bde HQ.

24. Wireless Van will provide W/T comm with HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde from time of movement of Mob Coy

*Kevin Law* Capt.  
Adjnt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

**DISTRIBUTION**

Copy No 1	HQ Coy	Copy No 13	2 i/c.
" " 2	A Coy	" " 14	Adjnt.
" " 3	B Coy	" " 15	Q.M.
" " 4	C Coy	" " 16	R.M.O.
" " 5	D Coy	" " 17	I.O.
" " 6	9 Aust Div Sigs.	" " 18	R.S.M.
" " 7	10 Coy A.A.S.C.	" " 19	
" " 8	2/2 Aust MG BN.	" " 20	24 Aust Inf Bde.
" " 9	Carrier Offr.	" " 21	
" " 10	Mortar Offr.	" " 22	W.D.
" " 11	T.O.	" " 23	File.
" " 12	C.O.	" " 24	Spare



War Diary

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O. No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
22 MAY 42 (666 DAY).

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART I A  
No. 333

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. ROUTINE - COMMENCING SAT 23 MAY 42.

0600 hrs. Reveille.  
0615 - 0630 P.T.  
0645 Coy Sick Parade.  
0700 Men's Mess.  
0730 Offrs Mess.  
0830 Bn Sick Parade at R.A.P.  
0830 - 1130 Tng Parade.  
1200 Men's Mess  
1230 Offrs Mess.  
1330 - 1630. Tng Parade  
1700 Men's Mess.  
1800 Retreat.  
1815 Offrs Mess.  
2130 First Post.  
2200 Tattoo.

2. MESSING.

Commencing Sat 23 May 42 personnel located in Bn HQ area will mess at separate cookhouse now available.

3. SPEED LIMIT

The speed of vehicles travelling through Camp area will be restricted to 5 M.P.H.

4. DOGS IN CAMP AREA

Personnel desirous of retaining dogs as pets will obtain permission from Coy Comds to have them in camp area. No other dogs will be allowed in the area. Attention is drawn to R.O. 313 of 19 May 42.

5. PERSONNEL ON LEAVE

Instances of assault have occurred on Rd TRIPOLI - EL MINA. Troops will be warned not to use this rd unless in parties of four or more persons.

6. CHURCH SERVICES SUNDAY 24 MAY 42.

Anglican and Protestant Denominations.

0730 hrs Holy Communion in YMCA Hut.

0900 hrs Bn Parade on cleared ground between YMCA building and "B" Coy.

Coy markers to report to R.S.M. on pde ground by 0850 hrs.

Coys march on 0855 hrs.

Dress. Summer dress, belt web, hats turned up.

R.O. 0900 hrs Mass in Cinema building.

7. CENSORSHIP OF REGISTERED ARTICLES.

1. Para 14 (v) of Notes on Censorship is repeated for guidance of all concerned :-

" A registered article will be franked in the presence of the sender or his representative. The article will then be closed in the presence of the sender or his representative, who will be responsible that the contents are complete except for any censored matter ".

**7. CENSORSHIP OF REGISTERED ARTICLES (CONT)**

2. The sender or his representative will then pay the registration fee and postage (if any) to the franking officer, who will be responsible for despatching the article and passing the receipt back to the sender or his representative.

(Ref AIF (ME) R.O. No. 1108.)

**8. LOSS OF EQUIPMENT BY FIRE**

1. Fires are continually being caused by the use of primus stoves and naked lights in tents and as a result much valuable equipment has been destroyed.

2. The use of primus stoves or naked lights in tents is prohibited and any loss due to fires caused by the disobedience of this Order will be charged against the C.O. or individual concerned.

(Ref AIF (ME) R.O. NO. 1113.)

**9. UNATTENDED VEHICLES**

1. Attention is drawn to A.I.F. (M.E.) Order No. 301 of 11th April, 1941, which provides that no vehicle will be left unattended in a city street.

2. Owing to the acute shortage of spare parts in the Middle East the possibility of thefts from vehicles is considerably increased. For example, a vehicle left unattended recently on the road ALEXANDRIA - CAIRO was stripped of such things as radiator, generator, air cleaner, fuel pump, window glasses, etc.

3. Accordingly, in future, no vehicle will be left unattended or unguarded in any area. C.O.'s. will ensure strict compliance with this Order by all ranks.

(Ref A.I.F. (M.E.) Order 1114.)

**10. LIQUOR --- OFFERING DRINKS TO NATIVES.**

Disturbances have been caused through the practice of offering drinks to natives.

This practice will cease forthwith.

In future, disciplinary action will be taken against offenders in this regard.

**11. LIQUOR -- LEAVE PARTIES**

Attention is drawn to 9 Aust Div R.O. No. 135 dated 28 Feb 42, which is repeated.

1. No beer or other liquor will be carried, by personnel proceeding on or returning from leave and no purchase of liquor will be made en route.

2. Picquet Officers and Officers in charge of leave parties will be responsible that this instruction is carried out.

PART 1B

**1. INTER COY TRANSFER**

WX6545 Pte Booth F.O. B Coy To HQ Coy. 21 May 42.

**2. PUNISHMENT**

WX4989 Pte Fisher A.D. H Q Coy AWI. 3 days extra gds and duties. 22 May 42.

3. REVERSION

WX6545 I/Cpl Booth F.O.

B Coy

Reverts to Pte at own request,  
on transfer to 4 H. 21 May 42.

*Handwritten:* Capt.  
Adjt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 I/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Notice bd, Offrs mess, 2 Ech, Band Sgt,  
Guard Comd, File, Amenities Offr,  
Coys - HQ, A, B, C & D (2 each).

NOTICES.

Australian Comforts Fund.

Receipt is ackd of the following comforts for distribution :

- 867 Packets - Razor Blades
- 867 Cakes - Toilet Soap
- 867 - Face Flannels.

PART 1 A (Cont)

12. BOUNDS - VILLAGES

Para 4 (a) Bn R.O. 332 is amended to read :-

All villages except ~~AMLOUNE~~ <sup>BECH</sup>MEZZINE and AMLOUNE will be  
considered out of bounds to all ranks.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust Inf Bn* (Unit.)

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1	.	.
Majors ...	3	.	.
Captains ...	7	.	.
<i>7 Capts incl Q.M.</i> Lieutenants ...	33	.	.
2nd Lieutenants ...	22	3	.
<del>Quartermasters</del> ...	.	.	.
District Officers ...	.	.	.
Totals ...	36	3	.

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
WX 3305	T/Capt Allen J.L.	2/28 Bn	22.5.42	Attached from HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde
WX 6525 <del>WX 9153</del>	Lieut Moore a.d. <del>G...</del>	"	16.5.42	From 9 Aust Div P.T. School

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
WX 9153	Lieut Greaves G.R.	2/28 Bn	18.5.42	To 9 Aust Div P.T. School

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

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

**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj	T/Lt.-col	Loughrey J.	2/28 Bn	yes	e.o.
"	"	Cox J.P.	"	"	2/c
"	"	Brennan J.G.	"	"	oc HQ Coy
"	"	Buntine W.A.	"	"	oc B
Capt	"	Thompson J.B.	"	"	" D
"	"	Simpson B.	"	"	" C
"	"	Northwood V.R.	"	"	" A
"	"	Stenhouse J.R.	"	"	2/c B
"	"	Hewbery J.C.	"	"	" A
"	"	Taylor A.L.F.	"	"	" C
"	"	Keall G.	"	"	A D
Lieut	T/Capt	Lamb L.	"	"	adjt
"	"	Wassell P.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Freedman H.J.	"	"	"
"	T/Capt	Yates G.H.	"	"	QM
"	"	Ellis E.C.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Head J.M.	"	"	"
"	"	Hall R.J.	"	"	"
"	"	Morris H.J.C.	"	"	"
"	"	Gamble J.H.	"	"	"
"	"	Walker S.A.	"	"	A/I.O.
"	"	Robertson H.P.	"	"	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Kickey W.	"	"	"
"	"	Stewart R.	"	"	"
"	"	Parry S.W.	"	"	"
"	"	Piper D.W.	"	"	"
"	"	Harrod E.C.	"	"	"
"	"	Eastman E.A.	"	"	"
"	"	Bird N.H.T.	"	"	"
"	"	Cream G.R.	"	No	9 and Div PT. Sch.
"	"	Baker G.E.	"	Yes	Pl. Comdr
"	"	Shadwick R.F.	"	"	"
"	"	Morris A.D.	"	"	"
"	"	Draper J.W.	"	"	"
"	"	Osborne N.K.	"	"	"
"	"	Keogh J.D.	"	"	Supernumerary

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
QX 19059	Capt.	Piddis K.W.	2/3 Fa Amb	17.7.41	R.M.O.
SX 14196	chaplain	Swan C.M.	AACH D	4.5.42	chaplain
WX 6805	Lieut	Paterson C.W.R.	24AITB	17.12.41	} 90 over W.B.
WX 11089	"	Thomas S.	"	30.12.41	
WX 11086	"	Pryce A.J.	"	27.4.42	
WX 11078	"	Blountman W.T.G.	"	30.3.42	
WX 3305	T/Capt	Allen J.L.	24 (Ingl) Inf Bde	22.5.42	

2/28 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)  
23 May 42 (Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander.)  
24 Aust Inf Bde (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)







War Diary

17

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
A.M.R. & O. No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
25 MAY 42. (669 DAY).

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 334

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN

1. COOKING EQUIPMENT

Recent inspection of cooking gear indicates that cookhouse personnel are not, in some instances, paying sufficient attention to the cleanliness of dixies, baking dishes, hot boxes etc.

Coys will ensure that sufficient fatigues are supplied to perform the duty of thoroughly cleaning such gear daily, and they will not be dismissed from duty until inspected and passed as correct by C.Q.M.S.

2. FIRST FIELD DRESSINGS

Demands for replacement of field dressings from Coys are excessive showing that personnel are not paying sufficient care to the safeguarding of an article which is to be used only in action or in the case of emergency.

Coys will submit immediately to Q.M. return of field dressings required to replace deficiencies, together with names of personnel for whom they are required recommending a stoppage or otherwise.

All ranks are reminded of the importance of preservation of field dressings and disciplinary action will be taken, where necessary, when shortages occur.

PART 1B

1. INTER COY TRANSFER

WK8677	Pte	Porrest	G.W.	C Coy	To HQ Coy	24 May 42.
WK3385	Capt	Keall	G.	Bn HQ	To D Coy (2 1/c)	25 May 42.
WK4169	Pte	Baguley	F.W.	"	To D Coy	25 May 42.
WK5281	Lieut	Walker	S.A.J.	HQ Coy	To Bn HQ (L.O.)	25 May 42.
WK4452	Pte	Liddelow	H.W.	"	To Bn HQ	"
WK11017	Lieut	Harrod	E.G.	A Coy	To HQ Coy (No 5 Pl)	25 May 42.
WK7018	Pte	Barrett	J.	"	do.	

2. ATTACHMENT

WK3305	T/Capt	Allen	J.L.	A Coy	Attached from HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde	22 May 42.
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3. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WK6021	Pte	Frusher	J.E.	D Coy	22 May 42.
WK11952	"	Miller	H.H.	"	23 " "
WK4946	"	Harris	H.	HQ Coy	25 " "

4. PUNISHMENT

WK5904	Pte	Watson	B.	C Coy	Using insubordinate language to his superior officer (A.A.S - 2) 6 Mar 42. Tried by District Court Martial on 17 May 42 at HARET JEDIDE LEBANON. Finding: Guilty. Sentence: Fined £45. Confirmed on 20 May 42 by Lt-Gen Sir L.J. MORSEHEAD. Comd 9 Aust Div.
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Cont.

**5. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST**

WX6762	Pte	Robinson	H.	HQ Coy	22 May 42.
WX4437	"	Lee	R.J.	"	"
WX5387	"	Criddle	N.J.	D "	"
WX10019	"	Macey	F.G.	B "	"
WX10046	"	Mead	V.H.	B "	"
WX5304	"	Haynes	J.B.	C "	23 May 42.
WX4868	Sgt	Lock	A.G.	HQ "	"
WX5914	Pte	Murphy	E.J.	C "	"
WX5900	"	Watson	M.	C "	"
WX4008	"	Finkelstein	W.G.	HQ "	"
				(reposted to B Coy)	"
WX6021	"	Frusher	J.E.	D Coy	24 May 42.

**6. REVERSIONS**

WX1 1974	A/Sgt	Ashby	J.J.	D Coy	Reverts to Pte on joining from Reinf.	24 May 42.
WX13865	"	Blake	K.O.	"	do.	"
WX1 1967	"	Hutchinson	F.W.	"	do.	"
WX10075	A/L/Sgt	Elphick	D.F.	B Coy	do.	"
WX13386	A/Cpl	Flanagan	L.W.	C Coy	do.	"
WX9000	A/Cpl	Haines	H.	B Coy	do.	"
WX12622	"	Hick	R.E.	C Coy	do.	"
WX13536	"	Loller	G.E.	D Coy	do.	"
WX1 3699	I/Cpl	Pickling	A.R.	HQ Coy	do.	"
WX13085	A/Cpl	Jackman	B.M.	A Coy	do.	"
WX5342	L/Sgt	Henderson	J.C.	HQ Coy	Reverts to Pte at own request	(Auth 9 Div A98/1/2709 of 22 May 42) 20 May 42.

**7. TRADE GROUPING**

WX13306	Pte	Ettridge	J.	D Coy	Relinquished TG ii (Cook)	23 May 42.
WX14924	"	Johnson	G.M.	D Coy	do.	"
WX14833	"	Paull	W.F.	C Coy	do.	"
WX1 3699	I/Cpl	Pickling	A.R.	HQ Coy	do.	"
WX10109	Pte	Howlett	M.	A Coy	Relinquished TG iii (Clerk)	23 May 42.

**8. TRANSFERS IN**

WX5728 Pte Wilton H. A Coy From HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde.  
22 May 42.  
Taken on strength from Reinf 23 May 42.

WX13699	I/Cpl	Pickling	A.R.	HQ Coy	WX12555	Pte	Donovan	T.R.	A Coy
WX13290	Pte	Hayman	L.G.	A Coy	WX13323	"	Mason	G.R.	"
WX11508	"	Symonds	K.T.	A Coy	WX13243	"	Symonds	O.S.	"
WX12422	"	Salter	A.E.	"	WX13281	"	Taylor	H.J.	"
WX13405	"	Toovey	P.J.	"	WX14278	"	Adanell	D.	"
WX11896	"	Andrews	R.A.	"	WX8632	"	Black	F.M.	"
WX13924	"	Cape	W.J.	"	WX10109	"	Howlett	M.	"
WX13085	A/Cpl	Jackman	B.M.	"	WX11890	"	McGuffie	J.S.	"
WX13178	Pte	McPherson	C.	"	WX12797	"	Poat	J.S.	"
WX15418	"	Smith	W.E.	"	WX15263	"	Wilson	K.J.	"
WX7643	"	Affleck	K.	B Coy	WX10075	A/L/Sgt	Elphick	D.F.	B Coy
WX13331	"	Finlayson	H.M.	"	WX9000	A/Cpl	Haines	H.	B Coy
WX13311	"	Kelly	W.	"	WX11942	Pte	McLean	G.A.	"
WX12933	"	Clarke	R.O.	"	WX9422	"	Hall	R.S.	"
WX11743	"	Smith	H.W.	"	WX9421	"	Weston	J.E.	"
WX13386	A/Cpl	Flanagan	L.W.	C Coy	WX14032	"	Goddard	D.F.	C Coy
WX11997	Pte	Grose	S.R.	"	WX12622	A/Cpl	Hick	R.E.	"
WX14833	"	Paull	W.F.	"	WX14827	Pte	Paterson	G.	"
WX15290	"	Sims	G.	"	WX13408	"	Townsend	R.	"
WX11463	"	Cayford	W.M.	"	WX5581	"	McKenzie	A.	"
WX6487	"	Meagher	T.S.	"	WX11974	A/Sgt	Ashby	J.J.	D Coy.

Cont.

**8. TRANSFERS IN (CONT)** Taken on strength from Reinf's 23 May 42.

WX13865	A/Sgt	Blake K.O.	D Coy	WX15376	Pte	Barndon A.V.	D Coy
WX14955	Pte	Crossman F.A.	"	WX14936	"	Dowsett Y.A.	"
WX14896	"	Doy L.R.	"	WX13306	"	Ettridge J.	"
WX11967	A/Sgt	Hutchinson F.W.	"	WX14923	"	Johnson G.M.	"
WX13536	A/Cpl	Loller G.E.	"	WX14265	"	Park H.H.J.	"
WX12710	Pte	Turner F.D.	"	WX12712	"	Turner R.H.	"
WX14426	"	Watts J.J.	"	WX12725	"	Webb C.J.	"
WX14822	"	Nuttall R.	"	WX15512	"	Shaw J.G.	"
				WX8627	"	Millane M.S.	"
WX15291	"	Zimmermann H.E.G.	"	WX1 4971	"	Bridgeman L.D.	"

**DISTRIBUTION**

C.O., 2 1/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
 Q.M., 24 Bdc, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
 Notice bd, Offrs mess, 2 Bch, Band Sgt,  
 Guard Comd, File,  
 Coys - HC A, B, C & D (2 each).

*Leeson Lamb* Capt.  
 Adj't 2/28 1st Inf Bn.

**7. TRADE GROUPING**

WX13706	Pte	Ettridge J.	D Coy
WX14824	"	Johnson G.M.	D Coy
WX14877	"	Paul W.P.	O Coy
WX13699	A/Cpl	Prisking A.R.	HQ Coy
WX14109	Pte	Howlett M.	A Coy

**8. TRANSFERS IN**

Taken on strength from Reinf's 23 May 42.

WX15599	A/Cpl	Prisking A.R.	HQ Coy
WX15290	Pte	Hayman J.G.	A Coy
WX15208	"	Symonds K.T.	A Coy
WX15422	"	Salter A.B.	"
WX15402	"	Toovey P.J.	"
WX15896	"	Andrews S.A.	"
WX15924	"	Gape W.J.	"
WX15985	A/Cpl	Lockhart S.M.	"
WX15718	Pte	McPherson G.	"
WX15718	"	Smith W.E.	"
WX15718	"	Atlock E.	"
WX15718	"	Parryson H.M.	"
WX15718	"	Kelly W.J.	"
WX15718	"	Glucke R.O.	"
WX15718	"	Smith H.W.	"
WX15718	A/Cpl	McPherson J.W.	C Coy
WX15718	Pte	Grove S.R.	"
WX15718	"	Paul H.P.	"
WX15718	"	Stine G.	"
WX15718	"	Guyford W.M.	"
WX15718	"	McPherson J.W.	"

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A.M.R. & O. No 1587

HQ, 2/28 AUST INF BN,  
IN THE FIELD.  
29 MAY 42 (673 DAY).

ROUTINE ORDER  
PART 1 A  
No 335

BY LT-COL J. LOUGHREY

COMD 2/28 AUST INF BN.

1. CHURCH SERVICES SUNDAY 31 MAY 42.

Anglican and Protestant Denominations.

- 0730 hrs Holy Communion in YMCA Hut.
- 0900 hrs Bn Parade on area South of Bn HQ O. Rm.  
Coy markers to report to R.S.M. on Bde ground by 0850 hrs. Coys march on 0855 hrs.
- Dress Summer dress, belt web, hats turned down.
- R.C.  
0900 hrs Mass in Cinema building.

2. ROUTINE

Ref para. R.O. No. 333.

Commencing Saturday 30 May 42 Bn Sick Parade at R.A.P. will be at 0800 hrs.

3. AIRING OF BLANKETS

All ranks to be notified that blankets must NOT be hung on grape vines for airing.  
Branches of olive trees may be used for the purpose.

4. LEAVE

Leave may be granted to BECHMEZZINE or AMIOUNE to 50 personnel per unit per night.  
Leave passes will be issued and will state the village to which the soldier is given leave.  
Hrs of leave to the above villages will be from 1730 hrs to 21 30 hrs.  
Tps in charge of an NCO may visit the villages between 1630 and 1730 hrs for the purpose of having a shower.  
The villages are Out of Bounds at all other times.  
Tpt passing through the villages must not stop.  
The cafe proprietors have been advised that they must not supply liquor to tps except between 1730 hrs and 2130 hrs.  
Spiritous liquors will not be supplied to tps.  
It has been reported that tps are gambling in the village.  
The picquet will ensure that this practice ceases.  
( Ref 24 Aust Inf Bde R.O. No. 238.)

5. SPEED OF TRANSPORT

Tpt will not exceed 5 m.p.h. in camp areas and 10 m.p.h. through the village of BECHMEZZINE.

6. PICTURE LEAVE - BTERRAM CINEMA.

Times of sessions for the above are :-

- 1st session 1815 hrs
- 2nd session 2030 hrs

An unlimited number may be sent from each unit.

All Cinema parties will be in charge of an Offr.  
(Ref 24 Aust Inf Bde R.O. No 240).

PART 1B

1. DETACHED FOR DUTY

WX3628 Pte Papprell F.H. HQ Coy To HQ 24 Aust Inf Bde  
21 May 42.

2. EMBARKATION FOR AUSTRALIA

WX5715 Pte Goddard T.H. A Coy Returned to Aust. Medically  
Unfit.

3. TRANSFERRED TO X LIST AND STRUCK OFF STRENGTH

WX7911	Pte	McEvoy J.R.	HQ Coy	25 May 42.
WX5066	"	Ballard H.	C "	26 May 42.
WX7258	"	Bradley J.	B "	"
WX14955	"	Crossman F.A.	D Coy	"
WX13218	"	Oliver T.W.	D Coy	"
WX4039	I/Cpl	Stewart M.V.	HQ Coy	27 May 42.
WX6763	Pte	Reid W.	C Coy	28 May 42.
WX5914	"	Murphy E.J.	"	"
WX15512	"	Shaw J.G.	D Coy	"

4. PUNISHMENTS

WX8369	Pte	Barber T.	A Coy	Unfit for duty by reason of previous indulgence in alcoholic stimulants. Fined £1. 25 May 42.
WX6549	"	McGrade E.L.	"	do. Fined 10/-. 25 May 42.
WX7255	"	Grafton H.M.J.	"	do. " £1. "
WX10021	"	Strickland R.B.	C Coy	Neglected when posted as a sentry to keep his arms in his possession. Fined 5/-. 26 May 42.
WX6087	I/Cpl	Nugent S.A.	"	AWL. Reprimanded. Auto forf 1 days pay. 24 May 42.
WX5728	Pte	Wilton H.	A Coy	Quarrelsome and created a dis- turbance. Fined 10/-. 25 May 42.
WX6339	"	Dal y J.F.	"	Failed to appear at Picquet mounting pde. Fined £1. 25 May 42.
WX10109	"	Howlett M.	"	AWL. 5 days C.B. 25 May 42.
WX10109	"	Howlett M.	"	Drunkness. Adm. nished. 25 May 42.
WX5495	"	Underhill R.	D Coy	Appeared on pde incorrectly dressed. 7 days C.B. 27 May 42.
WX4749	"	Scott W.	"	AWL. 7 days C.B. 27 May 42.

5. REJOINED UNIT AND NAME REMOVED FROM X LIST

WX4412	Pte	Corboy T.B.	HQ Coy	27 May 42.
WX3628	"	Papprell F.H.	"	28 May 42. (det to Bde).
WX6673	"	Murray P.H.	A Coy	"
WX11952	"	Miller H.H.	D Coy	"
WX5019	S/Sgt	Nicholls J.H.	HQ Coy	"
WX7091	Pte	Hendren W.	"	"
WX4946	"	Harris H.	"	29 May 42.

6. SCHOOLS AND COURSES

WX6780 Cpl Donovan F.C. D Coy ME Gas Sch No 20 R.I. Crs.  
Distinguished Pass.

7. TRANSFERS OUT

WX6070	Pte	Templeton C.	B Coy	To Aust Depot Bn. 26 May 42.
WX4459	"	Thomas E.L.	"	To 2/7 Aust Fd Regt. 28 May 42.

DISTRIBUTION

C.O., 2 i/c, R.M.O., R.S.M., I.O., T.O.,  
Q.M., 24 Bde, War Diary (2), Postal Cpl,  
Notice bd, Offrs mess, 2 Ech, Band Sgt,  
Guard Comd, File.  
Boys - HQ, A, B, C, & D (2 each).

*Leeson Lamb* Capt.  
Adjnt 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

*2/28 Aust. Inf Bn* (Unit.)

## PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
*			
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1	.	.
Majors ...	3	.	.
Captains ...	7	.	.
Lieutenants <i>7/capts incl QM</i> ...	3 } 10	.	.
<del>2nd</del> Lieutenants ...	22	3	.
Quartermasters ...	.	.	.
District Officers ...	.	.	.
Totals ...	36	3	.

\*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

### Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>WX3401</i>	<i>T/capt. Carlson wa.</i>	<i>2/28 Bn</i>	<i>29.5.42</i>	<i>Attached from 1 Aust. Convalescent Depot.</i>

### Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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



**PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Maj	T/Lt.-col	Loughrey J	2/28 Bn	Yes	C.O.
"		Cox JG	"	"	2/c
"		Brennan JG	"	"	OC HQ Coy
"		Bunting W.A.	"	"	B
Capt.		Thompson JB	"	"	B
"		Simpson B	"	"	C
"		Yoothwood V.R.	"	"	A
"		Finhouse T.R.	"	"	2/c B
"		Hewbery J.B.	"	"	A
"		Taylor A.B.F.	"	"	C
"		Keall G.	"	"	D
Lieut.	T/Capt.	Lamb L.	"	"	Adjut
"		Blasch P.	"	"	Pl Comdr
"		Freedman J.G.	"	"	"
"	T/Capt.	Yates G.H.	"	"	Q.M.
"		Ellis C.E.	"	"	Pl Comdr
"		Head J.W.	"	"	"
"		Hall R.G.	"	"	"
"		Hornis H.G.C.	"	"	"
"		Gamble J.H.	"	"	"
"		Walker S.A.G.	"	"	I.O.
"		Robertson T.P.	"	"	Pl Comdr
"		Hickey M.	"	"	"
"		Stewart R.J.	"	"	"
"		Parry G.L.W.	"	"	"
"		Piper J.W.	"	"	"
"		Harrod E.C.	"	"	"
"		Eastman E.A.	"	"	"
"		Bird A.H.T.	"	"	"
"		Evans G.R.	"	No	9 Aust Div P.T. School
"		Baker G.E.	"	Yes	Pl Comdr
"		Chadwick R.F.	"	"	"
"		Morris A.D.	"	"	"
"		Draper J.W.	"	"	"
"		Abome N.K.	"	"	"
"		Keogh J.S.	"	"	"

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
QX 19059	Capt.	Priddis K.W.	2/3 9th Avel.	17. 7. 41	R.M.O.
SX 14196	Chaplain	Swan C.M.	19 A.C.H. 3	4. 5. 42	Chaplain.
WX 3305	T/Capt.	Allen J.L.	24 A. Inf Bde	22. 5. 42	} o/o over W.E.
WX 3401		Carlton W.A.	1 Aust. Comd Depot	29. 5. 42	
WX 11078	Lieut.	Cloutman W.T.G.	24 A. I.T. Bn	30. 3. 42	
WX 11087	"	Thomas E.	"	30. 12. 41	
WX 11086	"	Price A.S.	"	27. 4. 42	
WX 6805	"	Patterson C.W.R.	"	17. 12. 41	

2/28 Aust Inf Bde  
(Unit.)  
30 May 42  
(Date of Despatch.)

*[Signature]*  
(Signature of Commander)  
24 Aust. Inf Bde  
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)



