

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

Item number: 8/3/3

2/3 Infantry Battalion

December 1940 - February 1941

CAPT E. J. MOLESWORTH

- 13 Dec 40 Left AMARIYA
18 Dec 40 SOLLUM. Heavy dust storms. Bombing.
19 Dec 40 Over Hell Fire Pass
22 Dec 40 RAP Truck damaged in air raid.
24 Dec 40 Many cases diarrhoea "B" Coy.
3 Jan 41 Bardia assault. Only one cas till thro beach RAP
in wadi, unable to move, shellfire. All cas. evac
by nightfall. SB from RAP to rear of Fd Amb SB and
MT from 16 A/T Coy near.
4 Jan 41 RAP fwd 400 yds with Bn and later to near Ital ten-
tented hospl.
6 Jan 41 Back to wadi for rest. 4 off and 56 ORs cas.
8 Jan 41 To Tobruk with Arty.
Position on escarpment sim to B.
21 Jan 41 V. cold and misty. Assembly head 2000 yds from wire
and by compass to bridgehead. Lost contact with HQ
Bn there and treated evac at beach. Passed too far
on, behind foremost coy, and came back at night to
Post 44.
24 Jan 41 N of T for rest. oasis and sea.
Beginning trg again.
Dose morphia usually maxm 3/8 gr. Mark cas by inverted
rifle with bandage. RAP keeps with Bn and evacs
quickly to ADS.

War
Diary 2

GENERAL NOTES COVERING PERIOD FROM DEPARTURE FROM
AMIRIYA UNTIL FEB. 1st., '41.

12 Dec. 40 - Bn. moved forward by train from AMIRIYA to SIDI HANEISH, arriving there about midnight on night 12/13 Dec. in the teeth of a fierce duststorm. Occupied forward defences of BAGUSH box, previously held by 16 Inf. Bde. (British) which by then was at SIDI BARRANI. Evidence of the secrecy of the move of British forces to the attack on BARRANI was given by the fact that British units had left their positions with all their gear in them, as though they were going on a Bde. exercise and expected to be back in two or three days.

On 14 Dec. 40, a Bde. recce. party consisting of Brig. and staff plus C.Os., Adjts. and I.Os. left for Adv. XIII Corps H.Q., which was then in the desert about 25 miles EAST of SOFABI, one of the Italian fortified camps captured in the preliminary stages of the attack on BARRANI. This recce. party traversed miles of desert, visiting the battlefield and reconnoitring the possible routes of advance for the Bde. to the SOLLUM Area.

Bde. commenced to move forward from SIDI HANEISH early on morning of Dec. 17 and C.O. rejoined Bn. at BUQ BUQ late on the night of the same day. On the next day Bn. moved forward again to SOLLUM, camping in wadis in the escarpment about 1½ miles from the village.

On Dec. 19th, Bn. was ordered to move to a position on top of escarpment and about 8 miles S.E. of FORT CAPUZZO. On the afternoon of this day a formation of enemy bombers came over and bombed SOLLUM Harbour and the pass leading to the top of the escarpment up the WADI HILFAYET (commonly known as HELLFIRE PASS). The night of Dec. 20th found the Bn. in position in front of BARDIA defences with A, B and C Coys. forward occupying a line about 5000 to 6000 yards from the enemy wire and under the crest of a low ridge which prevented to a certain extent enemy observation of positions. On the morning of Dec. 22nd., Bn.H.Q., which had been established SOUTH side of the CAPUZZO - SIDI AZIZ road, and about 4½ miles from CAPUZZO was heavily bombed by a formation of 22 Italian bombers at a low altitude. Three killed and some casualties from shock and slight losses in M.T. This raid taught the value of dispersion and the usefulness of the slit trench as protection. Thereafter there has never been any trouble in getting men of the unit to dig themselves in.

No further bombing raids were experienced in the Bn. area although bombers were active in other areas and one was brought down in flames on Dec. 27th near Bde. H.Q. A considerable proportion of our artillery were located in forward areas, however, and this resulted in forward companies being shelled regularly, with occasional shells landing near Bn. H.Q. area. Very few casualties resulted but some lucky escapes. A dud shell in one case landed in the slit trench occupied by a Sgt. of 'B' Coy.

The position in front of BARDIA and the weather caused extreme discomfort at times to the troops. An icy wind blew continuously and usually brought clouds of dust. Water was not plentiful and rations, although sufficient, consisted ~~xxx~~ generally of bully beef and biscuits.

Christmas Day was marked by the usual cold wind and dust clouds but A.C.F. Xmas hampers arrived in time for Christmas Day.

The position about Dec. 28th was that 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. had relieved 16 (British) Inf. Bde. in the right sector EAST of BARDIA - CAPUZZO road, and that 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. was responsible for left sector WEST of that road with 2/2 Bn. right and 2/3 Bn. left and as forward Bns. and 2/1 Bn. in reserve and slightly to left rear of 2/3 Bn. The period between Dec. 22nd and Jan. 3rd was occupied by observation of enemy movements during day, vigorous patrolling at night down to enemy A.Tk. ditch and wire and general preparation for attack. The information obtained from patrolling was extraordinarily good, and officers and men quickly adapted themselves to this form of warfare. Movement both by day and by night over the desert country is very difficult owing to lack of landmarks and the accuracy with which patrols went out to the correct places and returned was a marked feature of this period. From the collation of the mass of information collected by patrols and air observation, the plan of attack by the division emerged. The principal factors governing the plan appeared to be the construction of a satisfactory crossing for tanks over the enemy anti-tank ditch, and the securing of high ground on the middle of the western side of the BARDIA defences. The point of entry decided upon was between posts 45 and 47 at the NORTH end of the GARRIDIA sector and the general plan of attack was as follows:-

- (a) 2/1 Bn. to make the initial entry, capturing posts 45, 47 and exploiting to include posts 43, 42, 44, 46 and 49, this position to be held until daylight, 2/1 Pd. Coy. Engineers meanwhile constructing tank crossings over the ditch and clearing mines.
- (b) 2/2 Bn. to pass through the gap accompanied by tanks and capturing enemy positions down to the S.E. as far as BARDIA - CAPUZZO Rd. At the same time 2/1 Bn. with tanks to exploit to objectives which included the general line of the high ground overlooking the WADI EL GERGAN and including enemy perimeter positions NORTH to Post 55.
- (c) 2/3 Bn to follow 2/2 Bn through gap in wire and go almost due EAST with objective the tongue of high ground NORTH of WADI EL GHERIDIA, the total frontage of the objective being approximately 3,000 yds.

The plan further provided for the gap between the right of 2/3 Bn and the left of 2/2 Bn on their final objectives to be filled by "A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav.

This was to be the first phase of the attack on the first day and was expected to be completed by about 1100 hrs. The attack was supported in the initial stages by arty box barrage at the point of entry and later by concentrations on enemy positions ahead of the advancing infantry.

The whole attack went according to plan and by about 1000 hrs on Jan 3, the whole 16 Bde was on its objective.

2/3 Bn was relieved in its front line position on the evening of Jan 2 by 2/4 Bn of 19 Aust Inf Bde which had just arrived at CAPUZZO that day. The battalion then moved to a concentration area about a mile WEST of its old position where the men bedded down about 2100 hrs after a rum issue and hot meal. Reveille was at 0130 hrs Jan 3, and after a hot meal the Bn pushed off at 0315 hrs on

its seven mile march to its assembly area leaving its fighting M.T. to be brought up by the Bn 2 i/c (Major D.J. Lamb) as soon as opportunity offered. The only M T which actually accompanied the Bn into battle were two Bren carriers for C.O. and Adjutant and the truck carrying the R.M.O. and his satellites. Assembly area was reached at 0615 hrs after an uneventful march, except for the opening of the barrage at 0530 hrs. The Bn deployed in the assembly area with forward coys, right "B" Coy (Capt W.R. McGregor), left "A" Coy (Capt I. Hutchison), followed by "C" Coy (Major J.N. Abbott) and H Q Coy (Capt J.A.Y. Denniston). Rear Bn H Q moved with H Q Coy, the C.O. and Adjt moving in carriers in rear of and between the two forward Coys.

The enemy indulged in some shelling of the assembly area while the Bn was waiting and some casualties were caused, among whom was Lt E. Alexander, a very promising young officer, who had just been recommended for his captaincy. This officer died from the wounds he received.

The advance from the assembly area commenced at 0645 hrs amidst intermittent shelling and the wire was passed about 0740 hrs. Considerable shelling was taking place by this and much dust was raised. The two leading Coys turned EAST, both encountering fairly heavy and accurate shelling and later heavy small arms fire. Two enemy gun positions on the line of advance were over run and the guns captured. These had been firing over open sights. "A" Coy encountered a strong and very strongly held stone fort of some 250 yrs diameter on their objective. This was captured after a sharp fight; together with about a battalion of prisoners and much war material. In the mean time "B" Coy advancing on the right of "A" Coy had swung NORTH WEST onto their objective which was astride a branch of the WADI GHERIDIA running NORTH through the escarpment into the WADI EL GERFAN. This Coy succeeded in capturing the H Q of the PONTICELLI sector of the defences which was located in the wadi above mentioned; together with a large number of prisoners and all the Italian H Q records Etc.

The surprise and fast rate of ~~ENI~~ advance of our attack was evident here for the Italian H Q was practically intact except for a wireless station which had been set on fire.

"C" Coy moving in rear of "B" Coy then passed on to their objective which was the remainder of the ridge to the right of "B" Coy. During this part of the advance "C" Coy encountered another stone fort similar to that captured by "A" Coy. This fort was strongly defended and threatened to hold up the advance but after some fighting marked by dashing junior leadership, this strong post was captured and included a battery position and many medium and light M Gs also Anti tank weapons; About a battalion of prisoners was also taken from this post. All three forward companies were thus on their objectives by 0920 hrs. Bn H Q was then established in the upper part of WADI EL GHERIDIA, the companies meanwhile re-organising and consolidating the positions gained. The noise of battle could be heard proceeding south eastwards and shelling still continued. Enemy snipers were active on forward Coy's fronts and caused some casualties.

"D" Coy which had been detached from the battalion in the early stages of the attack for the protection of the starting line, now rejoined the unit and took up a reserve position in left rear of "C" Coy. Contact was established between 2/1 Bn on left and "A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav on right and by 1100 hrs the position appeared satisfactory. This was not so, as a matter of fact, as almost at that moment a detachment of six enemy M 13 Tanks

were engaged in a counter attack on "A" Coy position inside the fort which had been captured earlier. The tanks not being able to enter the perimeter of the fort were compelled to content themselves with firing their 2 pounder guns and machine guns and throwing hand grenades. The tanks then turned eastward towards the WADI GHERIDIA where "B" Coy had collected some 500 prisoners guarded by a section. This section was captured but an attack on "B" Coy was impossible up the steep and rocky sides of the wadi. The tanks therefor turned SOUTH and came up the wadi towards Bn H Q which fortunately had received a little warning and time to improvise a hasty small arms defence along the line of a stone wall which crossed the wadi. One officer Lt L.D. CALMAN, with Sgt WYATT of the mortar platoon, very gallantly took an anti tank rifle forward and to a flank in an attempt to delay the tanks. This officer lost his life but carried out his purpose. The organised small arms fire from behind the wall could not stop or damage the tanks which advanced in a line ahead but it had the effect of keeping them closed up and unable to fire their guns or M Gs. Just as the ~~XXXX~~ leading tank had reached a point about 40 yards from the wall a platoon of the 16 Inf Anti Tank Coy arrived and was at once in action, one gun coming forward to within 50 yards of the wall. In quick succession five of the tanks received direct hits at close range and were put out of action. The remaining tank was manoeuvred into a position behind two of its fellows and engaged the forward anti tank gun, its first shell scoring a direct hit, killing one man of the crew, wounding another and blowing the crew off the gun. The remainder of this very gallant crew at once returned to the gun and kept it in action but the tank scored another hit which set the gun portée on fire. The tank was engaged by the remaining guns of the platoon and surrendered. Very few of the tank crews remained alive. By 1230 hours the situation was again stable and remained so for the rest of the day. Snipers were still active but these were gradually cleaned up with the aid of I' tanks. Shelling of Bn H Q continued spasmodically until night fall but the troops had a fair nights rest.

The plan for the next day, Jan 4th, was that 2/1 Bn should clean up enemy positions in wadis under the escarpment and advance to the line of the TOBRUCH RD. 2/3 Bn was to conform to ~~XXX~~ this movement with a series of objectives culminating in a final line for the day through HEBS-EL-HARRAM to POINT 134 and across to join with 2/1 Bn at the road junction about 1000 yards S.W. of that point. 2/2 Bn having side slipped northwards along the CAPUZZO RD on the previous afternoon, to join up with the flank of 2/3 Bn, were to move eastwards to the coast, and into the WADI GERFAN at BARDIA. The latter consisted of two parts, upper and lower BARDIA, upper BARDIA being the main town, connected by a steep and winding road to lower BARDIA and the harbour 500 feet below in the mouth of the WADI GERFAN. "A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav commanded by Major D. MACARTHUR-ONSLON were to move on the flank of 2/3 Bn and patrol outside upper BARDIA.

The advance of 2/3 Bn commenced at about 0930 hours on JAN 4th, the Coys moving "C" Coy, "B" Coy, "A" Coy in that order from right to left. "C" Coy was shelled during its advance but otherwise suffered little opposition in gaining its first

objective, the line of the WADI GERFAN for 1000 yards EAST of the CAPUZZO-UPPER BARDIA ROAD. The advance of both "A" and "B" Coys was opposed by numerous parties of enemy in the tangle of wadis tributary to the WADI GERFAN but after some sharp fighting in ^{which} junior leadership played a large part, both Coys were onto the first objective, the line of the WADI GERFAN by 1100 hours. "D" Coy was then ordered to pass through "B" Coy, moving astride the CAPUZZO RD and exploit to the junction of CAPUZZO and TOBRUCH roads, just north of which was a large enemy hospital. The advance by this Coy was contested by a large number of enemy in an entrenched position WEST of the hospital. This was overcome by the aid of artillery and "B" and "A" Coys then advanced on the left flank of "D" Coy to the general line set for the night Jan 4/5th. The time was then about 1530 hours. Large numbers of prisoners had been captured and more were coming in constantly. While this advance was continuing, "C" Coy had come into reserve and was engaged in mopping up the WADI GERFAN EAST of the CAPUZZO ROAD, "A" Squadron had invested UPPER BARDIA, and the left flank of 2/2/ Bn was making slow progress towards LOWER BARDIA having been held up by artillery fire from a fort on the high ground S.E. of the bay. It did not appear that LOWER BARDIA would be secured by night fall. C.O. 2/3 Bn therefore decided to capture UPPER BARDIA before dark and the task was given to "C" Coy, assisted by "A" Sqn and three I' tanks which had arrived on the scene at about 1430 Hrs. The attack on UPPER BARDIA commenced at 1500 hrs and by 1600 hrs the town was in our hands together with some 2000 prisoners. "C" Coy after mopping up was withdrawn from BARDIA into reserve, "A" Sqn watching the town and forming a defensive flank eastward for 2/3 Bn. Liaison had been established with 2/1 Bn on left and the situation appeared stable at 1800 hrs. Bn H Q was established for the night at the cross roads. Some 7000 prisoners were captured by the battalion this day of whom 5000 had to be guarded for the night.

On the following day, Jan 5th, the advance was continued by 2/1 and 2/3 Bns side by side to the N.W. side of the perimeter defences. Very little opposition was encountered except for shell fire from a battery on the NORTH side of the WADI RAHEB which opened over open sites at the advancing troops. This was soon quietened by "F" Battery R.H.A. and by noon all resistance was at an end. After mopping up, the battalion was withdrawn to bivouac at the cross roads, moving on Jan 6th to WADI GHERIDIA where troops were rested and had a good wash and clean up with the plentiful water supply available.

An estimate of prisoners taken by the battalion over the three days is 13000 and among the booty were warlike stores and equipment of all kinds, much hospital equipment, some 30 guns of all calibres and about 300 motor vehicles.

Casualties suffered were relatively light. 14 WERE killed, including four officers (Lts Alexander, Calman, Jackson-Taylor and Clark) and 39 wounded.

After a short rest the battalion moved on the night 8/9 Jan to TOBRUCH area and on 13 Jan was in a position holding a line some four or five thousand yards SOUTH of the enemy defences in the DAHAR EL AZAZI sector. 2/1 Bn was on the right of the brigade facing the BIR IUNES sector, while the remaining two brigades extended the line eastwards to the sea coast.

The ensuing period was devoted to the usual patrol activity and nightly reconnaissance of the enemy defences.

Patrolling was ~~was~~ of the same high standard as at BARDIA and much valuable information was gained. The position was complicated by the existence some little distance from the enemy wire of booby traps- anti personnel mines fastened onto short stakes on a continuous line and connected by trip cords, contact with which exploded the mine. These were afterwards found to be continuous around the whole perimeter at distances apart of about four to five yards. These booby traps caused several casualties in the early stages and led to the wounding of the adjutant, Capt F.G. Hassett and another officer Lt H.O. Bamford in an attempt to fix a starting line for the attack.

Reconnaissance showed that the enemy wire and defences were similar to BARDIA but that the anti tank ditch was not complete in the DAHAR EL AZAZI sector, being only some 15 inches ~~EA~~ deep but protected by anti tank mines. It was eventually decided that the point of entry should be between posts R55 and R57, and that 16 Aust Inf Bde should again ~~make~~ the initial penetration. The Brigade plan, details of which were as usual co-ordinated by a series of conferences was that 2/3 Bn should make the entry, capturing posts R55, 57, 59, 56 and 54 under an artillery barrage. 2/3 Bn was to be followed by 2/1 Bn plus I' tanks. This Bn was to turn EAST capturing all enemy posts as far as BARDIA RD, helped by artillery. At the same time 2/3 Bn with one troop of I' tanks and artillery support turned WEST with final objective for the day a line 1000 yards WEST of the EL ADEM road. 2/2 Bn was to follow 2/1 Bn through the wire and exploit N.E; and NORTH for some 3000 - 4000 yards, assisted by 3 troops of I' tanks and counter battery fire on the numerous enemy batteries in the area. 16 Bde was to be followed in by 19 Bde whose task it was to continue the attack by exploiting NORTH and N.W. to the junction of the EL ADEM and BARDIA road and the line of the high ground 2000 yards to the NORTH. Zero was fixed for 0540 hours on the 21st Jan.

The attack went to plan. At 0330 hours 21st Jan 2/3 Bn moved from its concentration area to its forming up place, accompanied by engineer parties from 2/1 Field Coy whose task it was to clear booby traps and tank mines, and assisted by the Bn Pioneer platoon to blow gaps in the wire with explosives. Great credit must be given to the Field Coy for the work it carried out.

The Battalion arrived at its starting point at about 0535 hours and to the accompaniment of the opening bursts of the artillery barrage moved forward to the attack at 0540 hours. The battalion plan was to attack with two companies forward, "C" Coy on the right and "D" Coy on left; followed in square formation by "A" and "B" coys with "H Q" coy in centre. The task of the forward Coys was the capture of posts R59, 57, 55, 56 and 54 and the formation of a bridgehead to be held until day light to allow the entrance of the tanks, and the remaining battalions. "A" Coy with a troop of tanks was then to push ~~WEST~~ WEST along the perimeter, passing through "D" Coy and with "B" Coy moving on its right flank. The objective of "A" Coy was posts R50 and 51, "B" to prolong the line to the NORTH. On the entry of 2/1 Bn

"D" Coy was to reorganise and follow "A" Coy, "C" Coy into reserve, Bn H Q in the initial stages being at post ... after its capture. On the capture of objective by "A" Coy, "D" Coy was to be prepared to pass through and go on to posts 44 and 47, exploiting to 42 and 45 if conditions were favourable. "C" during the operation was to be prepared to ~~move~~^{move} up by bounds in rear.

The advance from the starting point was carried out successfully and the battalion halted at the anti tank ditch to wait for the lifting of the arty barrage and the blowing up of the wire. Some casualties occurred including Capt I. Hutchison of "A" Coy, wounded in the left arm and a salvo of shells burst among "C" Coy during the wait causing casualties to the extent of one Officer (Lt R; Donegan) and 20 men of No 14 platoon.

Five gaps in the enemy wire were to be blown by the engineers and some little delay was caused here by the failure of the torpedoes to explode together. Eventually by 0615 hours all gaps had been blown and the Coys moved through to the attack. By 0645 hours both forward Coys had captured their objectives, "D" Coy encountering bitter fighting at post 55; which was captured by Lt J.E. Macdonald and his platoon. This officer set an example of very gallant leadership and was wounded severely.

At about 0645 hours in the grey dawn light; the I' tanks followed by 2/1 Bn came through the wire and "A" Coy under command of Lt I. Fulton moved forward through "D" Coy with "B" Coy on its ~~left~~^{right}. Both coys moved steadily forward, "B" coy encountering little opposition and by about 0800 hrs "A" Coy had captured its objective, post 50 and 51.

"D" Coy which had reorganised and was following in rear, then passed through "A" Coy and moved on to the capture of posts 48, 49, 46, 47 and 44 still assisted by the remaining two I' tanks and concentrations from 3F Battery R.H.A. and 104 R.H.A. On proceeding to the capture of post 45, heavy concentrations of arty fire were put down around this post by the enemy and one tank was disabled near the post; the other tank withdrawing with mechanical trouble. This occurred at about 0900 hrs and at the same time the coy came under accurate M G and anti tank gun fire from posts 45 and 42 and also from posts WEST of EL ADEM road which occupied higher ground. Further advance by "D" Coy without more assistance was not possible. By this time advanced Bn battle H Q had been established at an Italian O P at TRIG 153, "B" Coy was prolonging the line to the right of "D" Coy and "A" Coy was reorganising and consolidating in the area of posts 49 and 51. Rear Bn Hq and "HQ" Coy was then ordered to post 50 and "C" Coy was ordered ~~XXXXXXXX~~ to take up a reserve position about 600 yards in rear of "B" Coy.

Owing to the disabled tank, situated close to post 45 it was impossible satisfactorily to engage this post with arty. Post 42 was also difficult to locate accurately and although considerable arty fire was brought onto this post and onto posts 40 and 41 WEST of EL ADEM road, no further progress could be made.

Another troop of I' tanks was obtained and a fresh plan formed. "C" Coy was ordered up to a position between "D" and "B" Coys and the plan was to attack with 3 coys forward with

the object of capturing posts 40 and 41 and exploiting if possible to posts 38 and 39. "A" coy was to move in rear of "D" Coy, pass through it on reaching EL ADEM road and with "C" coy capture posts 40 and 41. "B" Coy in the meantime conforming to the movement on the right flank. The attack was to be supported by a troop of I' tanks and arty concentrations. Zero was to be 1330 hours.

This plan was successful, "D" Coy capturing all posts EAST of the EL ADEM road and "A" and "C" Coys; overcoming stubborn resistance in posts 40 and 41 succeeded in pushing on to and capturing posts 36 and 37. On the capture of posts 40 and 41, the I' tanks returned to their rallying point. Opposition was still being observed from posts 34 and 35 and owing to the uncertainty of the position on the right flank, (19 Bde) a halt was called for the day at approximately 1500 hrs and gains were consolidated. "A" Coy having suffered considerable losses was withdrawn into reserve and the line for the night was held by "B", "C" and "D" Coys in that order from right to left. Bn H Q was established for the night in post R 43.

Casualties for the day were 7 other ranks killed and 5 officers (Capt I. Hutchison, Lts I.C. Fulton, A.F. Thompson, R Donegan and J.E. Macdonald) and 41 other ranks wounded.

Two other outstanding exploits might be noted. During the exploitation phase in the afternoon Sgt L.L. Stone commanding 13 Pl of "C" Coy managed to work his way forward to within attacking distance of an artillery position containing about 20 guns. In spite of the fire over open sights from these guns, the platoon, ably led, succeeded in capturing the position and some 2000 prisoners. During the night a fighting patrol from 15 pl of "C" Coy led by Sgt L. succeeded in capturing posts 34 and 35, which had still offered strong resistance up to sundown.

The night 21/22 Jan passed quietly and opposition collapsed on 22 Jan, the day being spent in moving around the perimeter westward mopping up and collecting prisoners. The battalion spent this night and the one following in the area of posts S10, 12 and 13 and moved on Jan 24 to WADI AUDA about 3 miles WEST of TOBRUCH to a rest position.

Prisoners captured during the action are estimated at 7000, with some 40 field and medium guns and hundreds of light and medium M Gs plus much other booty.

Decorations awarded to the Bn for the two actions were:-

CASUALTIES SUSTAINED AT BARDIA.

KILLED IN ACTION

NX 82	Lieut.	E. Alexander	NX 4544	Pte.	Coates R.H.
NX 89	"	L. D. Calman	NX 4817	"	Montgomery R.
NX 5376	"	A. L. Clark	NX 4866	"	Bowes R.
NX12164	"	P. C. Jackson-Taylor	NX 4959	"	Hergenham H.H.
NX 7599	Cpl.	Batty A.W.	NX 5590	"	McCarroll W.J.
NX 4855	L/Cpl.	Akister R.	NX 6070	"	Dempsey F.C.
NX 4511	Pte.	Tambakis P.	NX 7869	"	Miller G.D.

WOUNDED IN ACTION

NX 4313	Cpl.	McLean H.	NX13532	Pte.	Bentley G.A.
NX 4546	L/Cpl.	Carey K.	NX 9943	Pte.	Pegrum D.A.
NX 5430	Pte.	Baker L.A.	NX 4243	Pte.	Taylor E.C.
NX 4599	Pte.	Gardiner G.	NX 6069	Pte.	Daniels L.J.
NX 4252	Pte.	Pearce S.W.A.	NX 5164	Sgt.	Windus J.
NX13366	Pte.	Kelly J.F.	NX 5431	Pte.	Cocke G.H.
NX 9569	Pte.	Reid R.F.	NX 4256	Pte.	Waller R.J.
NX 9574	Pte.	Wilson R.	NX 5471	Cpl.	Heriot E.H.
NX11654	Pte.	Dowe H.L.	NX 4560	Pte.	Sherrin F.W.
NX 7957	Pte.	Periera H.J.	NX 4746	Pte.	Austen C.R.
NX 4315	Cpl.	Gluyas J.S.	NX13501	Pte.	Cook S.G.
NX 7904	Pte.	Merlett J.A.	NX 4579	Pte.	Turner J.T.
NX 5568	L/Cpl.	Coomber R.H.	NX 8674	Sgt.	Cheeseman N.G.
NX13535	Pte.	Armstrong C.	NX 5375	Pte.	Buckley H.S.
NX 5457	Pte.	Lyttleton J.	NX 2622	Sgt.	O'Brien L.P.
NX 4722	Pte.	Russell H.C.		Pte.	Cullen E.A.
NX 5390	Pte.	Bensley B.N.	NX 5061	Sgt.	Sutherland A.
NX 5556	L/Cpl.	Adam D.C.	NX 5578	Pte.	Galley E.H.
NX 4850	Cpl.	Maguire L.E.	NX 4222	Pte.	Costin H.J.

CASUALTIES SUSTAINED AT TOBRUCH

KILLED IN ACTION

NX 4261	Cpl.	Woolley S.F.	NX13297	Pte.	Delaney J.A.
NX 4282	Cpl.	Foster S.J.A.	NX 5392	Pte.	Farrell G.W.P.
NX15140	Pte.	Muller L.W.	NX 7877	Pte.	Hollands R.
NX14247	Pte.	Smith S.H.			

WOUNDED IN ACTION

NX 100	Capt.	I. Hutchison	NX 7867	Pte.	Young S.
NX 82	Lieut.	I. C. Fulton	NX 7880	Pte.	Massingham H.
NX12274	Lieut.	A. F. Thompson	NX13269	Pte.	Sullivan R.J.
NX 34887	Lieut.	R. Donegan	NX 5608	Cpl.	Stevens B.P.
NX34890	Lieut.	J. E. MacDonald	NX 5410	L/Cpl.	Dawson R.V.
NX13588	Pte.	Edwards E.V.	NX 4894	L/Cpl.	Power R.H.
NX13919	Pte.	Woollams L.J.	NX15098	Pte.	Parnell L.
NX 9502	Pte.	Cole H.R.	NX13506	Pte.	Rule W.
NX 7920	Pte.	Hollands E.	NX15254	Pte.	Mongable F.
NX 5505	Pte.	Kerdavid B.	NX 4730	A/Cpl.	Fisher F.
NX 4929	Pte.	Brooker L.W.	NX 4510	Cpl.	Moran R.J.
NX15090	Pte.	Cass W.H.	NX14099	Pte.	Sneddon G.P.
NX 4792	Cpl.	Leighton D.R.	NX15138	Pte.	Terrence G.
NX 4313	Pte.	Crawley K.C.	NX 7862	Pte.	Gallagher H.
NX 4561	Sgt.	Owers L.N.	NX13929	Pte.	Henneberry T.F.
NX 5430	Pte.	Mitchell D.K.	NX14259	Pte.	Bromby P.
NX15315	Pte.	Ashley M.	NX 9682	Pte.	Foley J.
NX 4302	L/Sgt.	Simpson G.	NX11061	Pte.	Fahey J.
NX 5026	Pte.	Clark W.J.	NX 4249	L/Cpl.	Martin S.
NX13496	Pte.	Cummins P.J.	NX 4992	Pte.	Murphy W.A.
NX 14252	Pte.	Turnbull W.R.	NX 4904	A/Sgt.	Sayers H.T.
NX 4551	Sgt.	Hillier C.R.	NX 4641	Pte.	Russell K.
NX 4926	Pte.	Dyer H.O.			
NX 4229	Pte.	Lloyd T.			

WAR
DIARY
2

file

SECRET.

2/3 BN. OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 1.

(Issued in conjunction with 2/3 Bn. Operation Order No. 2 dated 20 Jan. 41).

Ref. Map: TOBRUCH 1/50,000, Red
Overprint of 12 Jan. 41.

Copy No. 17

20 Jan. 41.

(1) MOVE TO CONCENTRATION AREA.

(a) The concentration area has been marked and recced. Coy. areas have been marked by pegs as far as pl. localities.

(b) Coy. Comd. will recced. their own routes to concentration area during afternoon D-1. Accurate compass bearings and paces will be noted.

(c) Timings - All Coys. together with their essential tpt. will commence movement from present locations at 1800 hrs. No movement will take place before this time.

(d) On arrival at concentration area, coys. will report to Bn. H.Q., located with H.Q. Coy.

(e) Tpt - essential tpt. will remain in coy. areas at concentration area during night D-1/DL and will be marshalled by M.T.O. at first light.

(f) Coy. Comd. P.O., Offr's. Mess and Bn. Office will report to present H.Q. area not later than 1715 hrs. D-1 for move to 'B' Echelon to join non-essential tpt. M.T.O. will arrange.

(g) Bn. H.Q. closes present location 1800 hrs. D-1 and re-opens at concentration area at 1830 hrs.

(h) Communication at concentration area by runner. Coy. Comd. and Lieut. Randall will familiarise all runners with location of Bn. H.Q. and Coy. H.Q.

(2) ACTION AT CONCENTRATION AREA.

(a) Immediately on arrival personnel will dig slit trenches. Tools unloaded from essential tpt. will be repacked immediately on completion.

(b) Rum issue will be made between 1800 and 2000 hrs., care being taken to prevent any man obtaining more than his correct issue. Rum will be issued to coys. during afternoon of D-1 to enable it to be split into pl. lots.

(c) Reveille will be at 0200 hrs. DL.

(d) Blankets will be rolled immediately in section rolls and dumped in pl. areas.

(e) Pls. will concentrate to within 30^x of coy. H.Q. area where hot meal and tea will be issued and consumed.

(f) Coys. will be formed up in col. of route ready to move off at 0310 hrs. Distances - lateral, 3 yds. between sections. Depth - 10 yds. between pls., 30 yds. between coys.

(3) MOVE TO ASSEMBLY AREA.

(a) Assembly area has been previously recced. and pegged to indicate coy. flanks.

(b) Route to assembly area - Cross country from head of concentration area on bearing of 300° for 1200 yds. where

E - W road is found - left along road to 'S' bend, from bend 400 yds. to centre of ASSEMBLY area where guide will be located.

- (c) Order of March - D Coy.
- C Coy.
- A Coy.
- B Coy.
- Bn. H.Q. & H.Q. Coy.

(d) S.T. 0330.

(4) ACTION AT ASSEMBLY AREA.

(a) On reaching assembly area coys. will adopt the formation outlined to coy. comd. and pegged on ground and marked by coy. guides.

(5) GUIDES.

Guides on scale of 3 per coy. will report to Adj. at concentration area not later than 1900 hrs. Guides will rejoin coys. at assembly area.

(6) MOVE TO S.L.

Direction and distance will be maintained by connecting files - lateral connecting files to be arranged by coys. - connecting files in depth will be arranged by O.C. H.Q. Coy. and will take up position on arrival at ASSEMBLY AREA.

(7) DISCIPLINE.

No lights, no smoking, no talking from time of leaving present coy. areas. Repetition of the lack of control by subordinate leaders on approach march at BARDIA might well be disastrous in this case.

E.S. Walker
 Lieut.
 Actg. Adj. 2/3 Bn.

Issued by at hrs.

Signed at 1420 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Copy No. 1 - Bn. H.Q.
- " " 2 - H.Q. Coy.
- " " 3 - A Coy.
- " " 4 - B Coy.
- " " 5 - C Coy.
- " " 6 - D Coy.
- " " 7 - 16 Aust. A.Tk. Coy.
- " " 8 - Pl. 1 N.F. (M.G. Bn.)
- " " 9 - 'F' Bty. R.H.A.
- " " 10 - 104 Regt. R.H.A.
- " " 11 - 7 R.T.R.
- " " 12 - 15 Aust. Inf. Bde.
- " " 13 - C.O.

Copies Nos. 14/21 - File.
 " " 22/23 - War Diary.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 2.

Copy No 20

Ref. Maps : TOBRUK Sheet 1/50,000.

19 Jan., '41.

(1) DRESS & EQUIPMENT.

- (a) Dress:
- (i) Battle Order, water bottles filled and slung on right side. Orders re respirator will be issued later.
 - (ii) Waterproof sheets will not be carried.
 - (iii) Greatcoats will not be carried but will be rolled on pack when loaded into Coy. non-essential tpt.
 - (iv) Leather jerkins will be worn with warm clothing, equipment worn outside jerkin.
 - (v) Haversack on back containing mess tin, one tin of bully beef and two pkts. of biscuits, together with change of socks and underclothes at discretion of Coy. Comds.
 - (vi) All ranks will wear a white patch approx. 6 inches square, sewn to haversack.
- (b) Equipment:
- (i) Each man will carry 100 rds. .303 S.A.A. and at least one H.S. Grenade.
 - (ii) All Bren magazines will be loaded with 20 rds. .303 S.A.A. between 1200 hrs. & 1600 hrs. on D-1. Extra amm. normally carried in magazines when loaded to full capacity will be carried in magazine pouches.
 - (iii) All officers will carry pistols with 24 rds. .455 S.A.A. or if not available, .38 Beretta automatics with similar quantity of amm.
 - (iv) Packs will be loaded into coy. tpt. classed as non-essential by 1130 hrs. on D-1.
 - (v) All weapons will be manhandled from present coy. areas to concentration area and thence forward. A/A. Pl. less 2 dets. allotted for protection of 'B' Ech. will place their Bren tripods on M.T.O.'s. truck. Bren tripods of coys. and such 2-inch mortar amm. as cannot be carried by the 2-inch mortar personnel, will be loaded on essential tpt. In the case of A/A. Pl., 1 det. will remain with the essential tpt., travelling with the M.T.O. The remaining det. will leave Bren tripod on the M.T.O.'s. truck and will move forward with its Bren gun and A.Tk. rifle with H.Q. Coy. O.C. H.Q. Coy. will ensure that full supply of Bren and A.Tk. magazines and amm. is carried by this det.
 - (vi) All tools will be taken in Coy. essential tpt. to the concentration area. Immediately on completion of digging of slit trenches in concentration area, Coy. Comds. will ensure that all tools are reloaded on to Coy. truck.
 - (vii) Q.M.

W.

(vii) Q.M. will arrange for an issue to Coys. by 1200 hrs. on D-2 of sandbags on the scale of 300 per Coy. These will be carried on essential tpt. Remaining sandbags will be loaded by Q.M. onto 'B' Ech. Bn. 2 i/c. will arrange that these sandbags are on immediate call if required in forward areas.

(2) TRANSPORT.

(a) The following is the essential Bn. tpt. and will accompany the Bn; to the concentration area:-

~~As per Adm. Inst. No. 1 BARDIA, to (vii),~~ See last
~~less (viii) - Pd. Amb.,~~ page of
~~(ix) - Carriers (less carriers for C.O. and Adj.)~~ this
 and Adj. -----y. Instruction.

(b) Two carriers for C.O. and Adj. will report to Bn. H.Q. at 1600 hrs. on D-1 and will move subsequently in accordance with separate instructions. Bn. 2 i/c. will be responsible for sending these carriers forward at the first opportunity.

(c) Essential tpt. of M.G. pl. and A.Tk. Pl. will R.V. at present Bn. H.Q. area by 1730 hrs. on D-1 and remain in that area until taken over by Bn. 2 i/c. on D1.

(d) The non-essential tpt. of Coys. will report to present Coy. areas at 0930 hrs. on D-1, will be loaded by 1130 hrs. and will return to 'B' Ech. area, reporting back to Q.M. by 1300 hrs.

(3) RATIONS.

(a) Rations for D-1 will be normal but will be delivered at H.Q. Coy. at not later than 1130 hrs. Coy. trucks will report for collection of these rations to O.C. H.Q. Coy. not later than 1115 hrs. on D-1. Hot-boxes and dixies will be returned by Coys. to O.C. H.Q. Coy. not later than 1300 hrs.

(b) Q.M. will issue to Coys. iron rations on the scale of 12 ozs. preserved meat, 8 ozs. biscuits per man prior to D-1.

(c) Q.M. will arrange for the cooking and delivery of a hot meal, and tea, to be consumed on the night D-1/D1. This will be delivered to the Bn. concentration area between 1730 hrs. and 1800 hrs. D-1., and will be in three trucks, as under:-

- No. 1 truck - C and D Coys.
- No. 2 truck - A and B Coys.
- No. 3 truck - H.Q. Coy. and Bn. H.Q.

These trucks will remain for the night D-1/D1 in Bn. concentration area, and will collect on the morning D1 the blankets of the Bn, as in para. (5) below. Bn. 2 i/c. will arrange for return of ration trucks to 'B' Ech. area at first light on D1, and ensure that drivers collect empty hot-boxes and dixies.

(d) Bn. 2 i/c. will ensure that when rations are delivered to the Bn. during action, ration trucks are accompanied by either Q.M. or R.Q.M.S., ~~xxxx~~^{who} will report on arrival to Bn. H.Q. Not less than two trucks will be sent up with rations.

5¹ (4) Water

(4) WATER.

(a) Q.M. will arrange for as much water as possible to be delivered by 0800 hrs. on D-1. Coys. will arrange to send in Coy. trucks with water cans to report to O.C. H.Q. Coy. at 0730 hrs. on that day.

(b) Any empty cans in possession of Coys. after the departure of non-essential tpt. on D-1 will be taken to concentration area and there packed into ration trucks which deliver hot meal on night D-1/DL. Coy. Comds. will ensure that this is done as soon as the ration truck reaches this area.

(5) BLANKETS.

Blankets on the issue scale of four per man will be carried by personnel to the Bn. concentration area. At Reveille on D1 blankets will be rolled in sec. bundles and stacked in Pl. dumps. These will be collected at first light together with empty dixies and hot boxes mentioned in para. 3(x) by the M.T. drivers of the ration trucks and will be returned to the 'B' Ech. area.

Q.M. will arrange delivery of blankets to correct coys. when tpt. classed as non-essential comes fwd.

(6) PRISONERS.

(a) The following personnel will act as guard to prisoners taken:-

O.C. Guard - Lieut. J. B. G. King.
Troops - To be arranged by O.C. H.Q. Coy.

O.C. H.Q. Coy. will prepare a nominal roll of guard personnel and submit it to Adjutant by 1000 hrs. D-1.

(b) If possible, O.C. H.Q. Coy. will make available to O.C. Guard, a truck on which a Bren gun detachment will be mounted and used to keep watch on prisoners beyond rushing distance.

(7) GROUNDSTRIPS.

Coys. will ensure that white groundstrips in the form of a cross is set up on the line of the forward pls., immediately an objective is captured or if the Coy. is at any time held up.

(8) MOTOR CYCLISTS.

O.C. H.Q. Coy. will arrange for four motor-cycle D.Ks. to move forward with Bn. essential tpt. Remaining motor-cyclists will move with non-essential tpt.

(9) SIGNALS.

(a) Sig. Offr. will commence reeling in wire to present Coy. locations at 1300 hrs. on D-1, and will ensure that all telephones are collected and packed in signals truck.

(b) Sig. terminals at present with coys. will remain, as will coy. runners at present attached to Bn. H.Q.

(10) BREN GUNS, A.TK. RIFLES.

Coy. Comds. will instruct all personnel that in the event of a man bearing a Bren gun or A.Tk. rifle being wounded or killed, another member of the sec. will take over the Bren gun or A.Tk. rifle, and also collect magazines. All Bren guns and A.Tk. Rifles must reach the objective.

Coy. Comds.

Coy. Comds. will ensure that every man of their cmd. is impressed with the necessity for the care and conservation of Bren Gun and A.Tk. Rifle magazines. The loss of these magazines which occurred in the Battle of BARDIA must NOT be repeated.

(11) S.A.A. RESERVE.

(a) Q.M. will arrange with the R.S.M. for all reserve amm. to be carried on the two S.A.A. reserve trucks accompanying the essential tpt. Q.M. will render to Bn. H.Q. by 0900 hrs. D-1 a statement of the amm. carried in each truck.

(b) Details re A.P. will be issued when available.

(12) CASUALTIES.

(a) Coy. Comds. will instruct all ranks that amm. belonging to casualties is to be removed prior to their evacuation to the R.A.P.

(b) Coy. Comds. will ensure that a nominal roll of all casualties sustained up to 0600 hrs. each day is submitted to Bn. H.Q. by 0800 hrs. on the following day.

(13) RUM ISSUE.

Q.M. will forward to Bn. H.Q. on the afternoon of D-1 a rum issue for all ranks. This will be issued to troops between 1800 and 2000 hrs. D-1 in concentration area.

(14) WIRE CUTTERS AND GLOVES.

Wire Cutters will be issued to Coys. to bring the scale of issue as far as possible to three per sec. Additional wire cutters will be collected by Coy. Comds. immediately on conclusion of the action and returned to Bn. H.Q.

ALL wire cutters in possession of coys. will be fastened to the bearer by means of an improvised lanyard. Coy. Comds. will ensure that this instruction is strictly adhered to, as the supply of wire cutters is limited and their loss may seriously affect the success of this operation.

(15) MARKING OF H.Qs.

Coys. will ensure by D-1 that they are in possession of a signboard marking their H.Q. similar to that used in the BARDIA action. These boards will be carried well displayed by each Coy. H.Q. at all times. Lieut. PERRY will arrange for the necessary board for Bn. H.Q.

(16) ACK.

E. D. Walker Lieut.
Acting Adj. 2/3 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No. 1 - Bn. H.Q.
" " 2 - H.Q. Coy.
" " 3 - A Coy.
" " 4 - B Coy.
" " 5 - C Coy.
" " 6 - D Coy.
" " 7 - 16 Aust. A.Tk. Coy.
" " 8 - Pl. N.F. M.G. Bn.
" " 9 - 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.
" " 10 - C.O.
" " 11-19 - File.
" " 20-21 - War Diary.

Amendment to Para. 2(a) - "TRANSPORT".

The following is the essential bn. tpt. and will accompany the Bn. to the concentration area:-

(i) One truck per coy.	5
(ii) M.T.O's. P.U.	1
(iii) Sig. Truck	1
(iv) Wireless Truck	1
(v) Mortar Trucks	2
(vi) Reserve S.A.A.	2
(vii) R.A.P.	1
(viii) Carriers (less carriers for C.O. and Adjt.)	3
	<u>16</u>

101

2/3 BATTALION OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 1.

(Issued in conjunction with 2/3 Bn. Operation Order No. 1 dated 1 Jan. 41).

Ref. Maps : BARDIA North and South 1/50,000.

Copy no. *21*.....

2 Jan. 41.

(1) RELIEF OF 2/3 BN.

(a) 2/3 Bn. will be relieved at its present location by a Bn. of the 19 Aust. Inf. Bde. before 1730 hrs. on D-1.

(b) Guides from each coy. on the scale of one per Coy H.Q. and one per pl. will report to Bn. H.Q. at 1600 hrs. D-1. These personnel will guide relieving troops direct to their new location immediately they arrive in the Bn. area.

(c) Prior to leaving the area Coy. Comds. will hand over details of coy. localities together with fire plans, to the relieving coy cmd. Reports stating handover has been completed will be submitted to Bn. H.Q. at its present location as soon as possible.

(2) MOVE TO CONCENTRATION AREA.

(a) The concentration area has been previously recon. and the coy. areas marked by pegs as far as pl. localities. Dispositions are shown on Trace A attached.

(b) Routes to concentration area - see Trace A. Bn. 2 i/c, M.T.O. and Coy. Comds. will recon. route to the concentration area during D-1, and accurate compass bearings and paces to respective localities will be noted.

(c) Timings. (i) Rifle Coys' personnel and coy. trucks will commence movement from present locations at 1730 hrs. No movement by rifle coy. personnel will take place before this time.

(ii) Bn. H.Q. and H.Q. Coy marching personnel will depart present location at 1700 hrs D-1.

(iii) Essential M.T. less Rifle Coy. trucks, M.G. Pl. and A.Tk. Coy. tpt., will depart present location under the Bn. 2 i/c. at 1730 hrs D-1 and will be dispersed in area shown on Trace A.

(iv) Tpt. for the M.G. Pl. and A.Tk. Coy will remain in present dispersion area East of Bn. H.Q. and will be brought up to Conc. Area at first light D1 by the Bn. 2 i/c.

(v) At the concentration area, R.P. truck will move into Bn. H.Q. area and will move forward to assembly area with the marching personnel.

(d) On arrival at the concentration area, coys. will report in to Bn. H.Q.

(e) Bn. H.Q. closes at present location at 1730 hrs D-1 and re-opens at new location at 1800 hrs D-1.

(f) Communication at the concentration area will be by runner. Coy. Comds. and Sgt. Randall will ensure that all runners are conversant with location of Bn. H.Q. and Coy. H.Qs.

(3) ACTION AT CONCENTRATION AREA.

(a) Coys. will construct slit trenches for coy. personnel as soon as possible after their arrival. Tools unloaded from the coy. trucks, which will remain in coy areas, must be replaced immediately the trenches are completed.

(b) Immediately on their arrival at the concentration area, coys. will issue arms, equipment and tools which are to be handed to the assembly area (vide Admin. Instruction No. 1). These will be issued to secs. prior to their turning in for the night.

Reveille on D1 will be at 0130 hrs. Coys. will carry out routine laid down in Admin. Instruction no. 1.

4. MOVE TO ASSEMBLY AREA.

- (a) Location of Assembly Area is shown in Trace & attached.
- (b) Route to Assembly Area - see trace & attached.
- (c) Order of March -

Bn. H.Q.
A Coy.
B Coy.
C Coy.
H.Q. Coy.

(d) D Coy will move in accordance with instructions contained in 2/3 Bn. OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 2.

(e) Formation for move to Assembly Area.

Col. of route - 3 paces, lateral distance between secs - 50 yds interval between pls with two connecting files - 100 yds. interval between coys with three connecting files.

(f) Start Time - 0300 hrs DL.

(g) Essential tpt less two carriers (C.O's. and Adj't's.) and R...P. truck will remain in the concentration area under the Bn. 2 i/c. Further movement will be in accordance with separate instructions issued to the Bn. 2 i/c.

5. ACTION AT ASSEMBLY AREA.

(a) On reaching the ASSEMBLY AREA, Coys will adopt the formation laid down in para. 11 of 2/3 Bn. OPERATION ORDER No. 1 and will then lie down and await the time to move.

F. J. Harcourt
Adj't. 2/3 Bn.

Issued by runner at 1300 hrs.

Signed at 1215 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION.

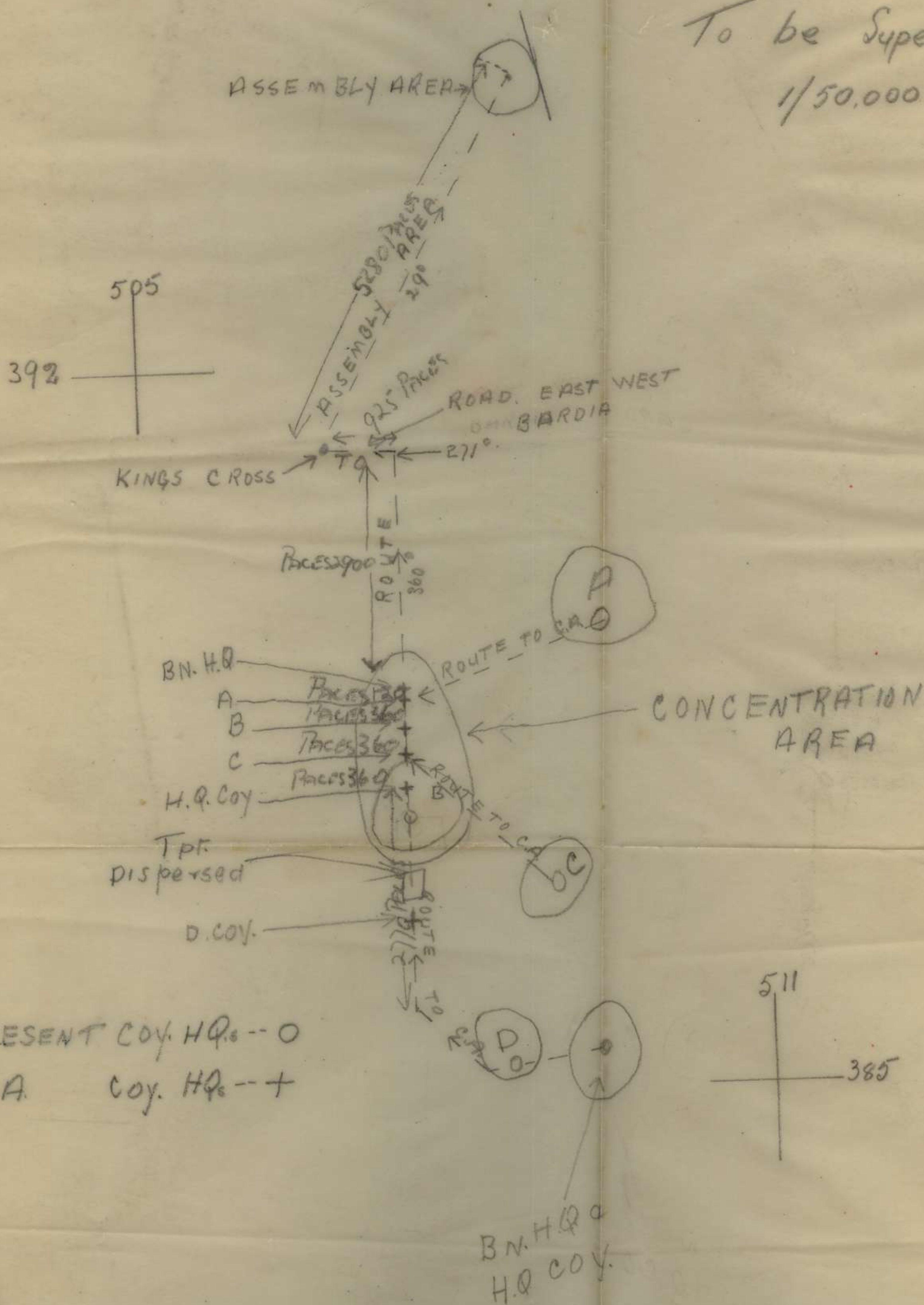
Copy No. 1 - Bn. H.Q.
2 - H.Q. Coy.
3 - A Coy.
4 - B Coy.
5 - C Coy.
6 - D Coy.
7 - 16 Aust. Mk. Coy.
8 - Pl. H.F. M.G. Bn.
9 - 51 Fd. Bty.
10 - 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.
11 - C.O.
12/19 - File.
20/21 - War Diary.

TRACE A

Issued in conjunction with 2/3 BN Operation
Instructions No. of 1 Jan 41.

SECRET
Copy No.
App No.

To be Superimposed
1/50,000



1 Jan. '41.

Ref. Maps : BARDIA North and South, 1/50,000.

(1) DRESS AND EQUIPMENT.

- (a) Dress.
 - (i) Battle Order (Respirator at Alert).
 - (ii) Goggles to be worn with equipment outside g/coat.
 - (iii) Haversack on back, water bottle (filled) and mess tins in haversack.
 - (iv) G/Sheet rolled and strapped to haversack.
- (b) Equipment.
 - (i) Each man will carry 150 rounds .303 S&W and at least one H.E. Grenade.
 - (ii) All Brens, Mk. Rifles and two-inch mortars will be taken on the Coy. truck to the concentration area. Coy. Pl. less two dets. allotted for protection of "B" Ech. will place their Brens on the M.T.O's. truck. From the concentration area forward, weapons will be manhandled with the exception of Bren tripods, and the two-inch mortars and ammunition, which will remain on coy trucks. These will come forward later with the essential transport. In the case of the Coy. Pl., one det. will remain with the essential tpt. travelling with the M.T.O. The remaining det. will leave tripod on the M.T.O's. truck and will move forward with the Bn.
 - (iii) All Bren Mags. will be loaded with 20 rds. .303 S&W between 1200 hrs. and 1600 hrs. on D-1. Extra ammunition normally carried in mags. when loaded to full capacity will be carried loose in mag. pouches.
 - (iv) All offrs. will carry 2 rounds .455 S&W. Those not in possession of this quantity will obtain extra from the R.S.M. prior to 1200 hrs. D-1.
 - (v) If available, sandbags will be carried by personnel on the scale of four per man.
 - (vi) All tools will be taken in coy. truck to the concentration area. From this area forward tools on the scale of two picks and two shovels per sec. will be manhandled.
 - (x) In coy trucks. Remaining tools will go forward later. (x)
 - (vii) Packs will be loaded onto coy. tpt. classed as non-essential by 1000 hrs. on D-1 and will be returned later to "B" Ech. with that tpt.

(2) TRANSPORT.

(a) The following transport will accompany the Bn. to the concentration area:-

(i)	One truck per coy.	5
(ii)	M.T.O's. P.U.	1
(iii)	Sig. Truck	1
(iv)	Wireless truck	1
(v)	Mortar Trucks	2
(vi)	Reserve S&W	2
(vii)	R.S.M.P.	1
(viii)	Fd. Amb.	1
(ix)	Carriers	5
(x)	M.G. Pl.	5
(xi)	Mk. Pl.	4
	Total	<u>28</u>

725

- (b) Remaining tpt. will report to present Bn. H.Q. location at 1430 hrs. on D-1. Immediately it is assembled it will move under the M.T.O. to the present "B" Ech. location. M.T.O. will be responsible for the reception and marshalling of their tpt. Q.M. will be responsible for moving such tpt. to the new "B" Ech. area.

(3) RATIONS.

- (a) Rations for D-1 will be normal with an additional hot meal being issued for consumption during early hours of D1. Q.M. will deliver this meal to present Bn. H.Q. area in two 30-cwt. trucks by 1600 hrs. D-1. Q.M. will instruct the drivers of these trucks of the new location of "B" Ech. and their route back to it from the Bn. concentration area. M.T.O. will arrange for the hot meal to accompany Bn. essential tpt. to the Bn. Concentration area and for its issue to coys. prior to 1830 hrs. on D-1. Meal will be consumed at Reveille on D1 and hot boxes and dixies will be stacked at each Coy. H.Q. immediately after the consumption of the meal.
- (b) Iron Ration will be issued to Coys. by the Q.M. as soon as it is available. Coy. Comds. will not issue this ration to personnel until 1400 hrs. on D-1. Attention is drawn to the necessity for instructing all personnel in the conserving of this ration.

(4) BLANKETS.

Blankets on the issue scale of four per man will be carried by personnel to the Bn. Concentration area. At Reveille on D1 blankets will be rolled in sec. bundles and stacked in Pl. dumps. These will be collected at first light together with empty dixies and hot boxes mention in para. 3(a) by the ~~26xxxx~~ M.T.O. drivers of the ration trucks and will be returned to the new "B" Ech. area.

Q.M. will arrange delivery of blankets to correct coys. when tpt. classed as non-essential comes fwd.

(5) PRISONERS.

(a) The following personnel will act as guard to prisoners taken:-

O.C. Guard	-	Licut. J. L. Perry.
Troops	-	(i) Pioneer Pl. less det.
		(ii) Spare Carrier Personnel.
		(iii) Bn. H.Q. and H.Q. Coy. Officers' batmen.

O.C. H.Q. Coy. will prepare a nominal roll of guard personnel and submit it to Adjutant by 1000 hrs. D-1.

(b) Excess Bron Guns and mags. in possession of Carrier Pl. will be handed over to Licut. Perry by 1000 hrs. D-1.

72A

(c) H.Q. Coy. truck will be available to Licut. Perry after objective has been captured. One Bren Gun. det. will be mounted on this truck and will be used to keep watch on prisoners beyond rushing distance.

(d) Further instructions re the collection of prisoners will be issued when the information is available.

(e) Det. of Pioneer Pl. mentioned in para. (a)(i) above will consist of six men detailed to remain with H.Q. Coy. (These men will carry three picks and three shovels - ~~tasks~~ to be allotted by O.C. H.Q. Coy).

(6) GROUNDSTRIPS.

Coy. Comds. will ensure that their coy. is in possession of two white ground strips each 8' x 20". These must be placed out in the form of a cross (+) in front of the forward pls. immediately the objective is captured, or when coy. is held up. Failure to do this may result in our being bombed by our own aircraft.

(7) BN. ORDERLIES.

Personal orderlies for the C.O. on the scale of two per coy. will report with blankets, ammunition and rations to Bn. H.Q. at its present location by 1600 hrs. D-1. Packs etc. will previously have been placed on non-essential coy. transport. The men selected for this task must be the best available, as their job will require ability to deliver a verbal message clearly and accurately under any circumstance.

(8) SIGNALS.

(a) An attempt to exchange sig. wire will be made with the relieving Bn. In default of this, Sgt. Randall will commence reeling in Signal wire at 1300 hrs. D-1.

(b) Sig. terminals with coys. will retain V.F. equipment. Telephones will be collected when Sig. Wire is reeled in or if exchange of wire is made at 1530 hrs, and will be packed on the Sig. truck.

(9) BREN GUNS, ...TK. RIFLES.

Coy. Comds will instruct all personnel that in the event of a man bearing a Bren gun or ...Tk. rifle being wounded or killed, another member of the sec. will take over the Bren Gun or ...Tk. rifle. ALL Bren Guns and ...Tk. Rifles must reach the objective.

(10) S..... RESERVE.

..... will arrange with the R.S.M. for all reserve ammunition to be carried on the two S..... reserve trucks accompanying the essential tpt. will render to Bn. H.Q. by 0900 hrs. D-1 a statement of the ammunition carried on each truck.

(b) Details R.A.P. will be issued when available. Sgt. Burkhill will assist the R.S.M. in the supply of ammunition, and will ride in the second amh. truck.

(11) CASUALTIES.

Coy. Comds will instruct all ranks that ammunition belonging to casualties is to be removed prior to their evacuation to the R.A.P.

(12) SKETCH MAPS.

"I" Offr. will be prepared to produce during morning of D-1, sixty sketch maps showing:-

- (a) Present sub-unit locations;
- (b) Concentration area, assembly area, Start Line, Objectives and times of arrival at these areas mentioned.
- (c) Routes to areas in (b) above;
- (d) Prominent features which will assist in the recognition of (a) and (b) above.

These sketches will be issued down to Sec. leaders at a 1 to hour on the afternoon of D-1. Coy. Comds will ensure that all sub-unit comds. are thoroughly conversant with the Bn. plan of attack.

(13) RUMZ ISSUE.

R.M. will forward to Bn. H.Q. on the afternoon of D-1 a rum issue for all ranks. This will be issued to troops between 1600 and 2000 hrs. D-1 in concentration area.

(14) WIRE CUTTERS AND GLOVES.

All wire cutters in possession of coys. will be fastened to the bearer by means of an improvised lanyard. Coy. Comds will ensure that this instruction is strictly adhered to, as the supply of wire cutters is limited and their loss may seriously affect the success of this operation. Licut. Perry will issue gloves to coys. on the scale of two prs. per rifle sec. by 1000 hrs. on D-1.

(15) MARKING ON H.Qs.

Licut. Perry will issue to Coys. by 1000 hrs. on D-1, coy. signboards marked "A57" etc. These boards will be displayed at all times for tank recognition, both whilst on the move and when occupying a position.

(16) ACK.

F. G. Haswell
Capt.
Adj. 2/3 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION.

- Copy no. 1 - Bn. H.Q.
- Copy No. 2 - H.Q. Coy.
- Copy no. 3 - A Coy.
- Copy No. 4 - B Coy.
- Copy no. 5 - C Coy.
- Copy no. 6 - D Coy.
- Copy no. 7 - 16 Aust. Lk. Coy.
- Copy no. 8 - Pl. M.G. Coy. (N.F. M.G. Bn).
- Copy No. 9 - 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.
- Copy no. 10 - C.O.
- Copies nos. 11-19 - File.
- Copies 20-21 - War Diary.

War Diary

2/3 BATTALION.

SECRET

OPERATION ORDER NO. 1.

Copy No. 21

1 Jan., '41.

Ref. Maps : BARDIA NORTH and BARDIA SOUTH 1/50,000.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
 Survey of records of 1939-45
 War commenced in 1951
 This record came from
Unit The Esch
 Provisional Classification No.

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy as per intelligence summaries.

Own Tps.

2. 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. is attacking BARDIA assisted by 17 Aust. Inf. Bde., Arty., "I" Tanks and 4 Armd. Div.

3. Attack by 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. will be in 3 phases:-

(a) Phase 1: 2/1 Bn. is breaching wire between incl. post 45 ~~46~~ - incl. post 47 and capturing in successive steps posts 45, 47 and 49 : 44 and 46 : Mcd. Bty. and Trig. 180 (51273967), thence exploiting to objectives at Bty. posn. at 51393956, RIDGE about 51333964, Trig. 180, posts 51 and 53. Exploitation N.W. is being assisted by one tp. "I" tanks and arty.

(b) Phase 2: 2/2 Bn. is passing through breach in wire and turning S.E. with ultimate objective the line of main CAPUZZO - BARDIA Rd. in 515391 and 515392 and task of capturing en route centres of resistance on perimeter defences and bty. posns. Left of 2/2 Bn. will rest on incl. ROAD running S.E. from POINT 188 (51273957) to RD JUNC 51583924. Attack by 2/2 Bn. is being supported by 3 Tps. "I" Tanks and Arty.

(c) Phase 3: 2/3 Bn. is following 2/2 Bn. through breach in wire, turning slightly SOUTH of EAST and proceeding past right flank of 2/1 Bn. to objective.

4. 2/1 Fd. Coy. is constructing six crossings over Tank ditch, two NORTH of POST 47 and four between POST 47 and POST 45. It is expected that these will be fit for L.T. by 0745 hrs. D1.

5. Sqn. 6 Aust. Cav. will follow 2/3 Bn. and take up posn. linking 2/2 Bn. and 2/3 Bn.

6. 2/7 Bn. is in res. to 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.

7. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. is making raid on S.E. position BARDIA - BARILIER to coincide with attack by 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.

8. Our aircraft will be flying over BARDIA from 0230 hrs. D1 and Navy - Air Force is bombarding area of NORTH BARDIA defences on D1 from a line one Km. NORTH of BARDIA - TOBRUK Rd.

9. (a) One Fl. I.F. (A.G. Bn.) is in support 2/3 Bn. from 1500 hrs. 1 Jan.

(b) One Fl. 16 L.Tr. Coy. in support of 2/3 Bn.

9. (a) G.O.C. 6 Aust. Div. will probably come fwd. in a cruiser tank during operation. All ranks will be warned of this.

INFORMATION.

10. 2/3 Bn. will capture RIDGE running EAST - WEST in 516394, 515394 and 514395 from incl. 51633948 to incl. BDI 51453953 and consolidate facing NORTH (see trace 4).

REMARKS.

11. Bn. less "D" Coy. and tpt. will proceed to assembly area in

accordance with operation instruction no. 1 already issued and will form up at assembly area in accordance with Trace "B".

12. "D" Coy. will provide 3 protective detachments, each one pl., for:-

- (a) Right of S.L.
- (b) Fwd. of S.L.
- (c) W.D.I. in 510396.

"D" Coy. move to position and subsequently move to rejoin Bn. will be in accordance with operation instruction no. 2 and Trace "C" issued separately.

13. Move to S.L. and gap in wire.

(a) Timings.

Depart S.L. X	0700 hrs. X <i>Assembly Area</i>
Pass S.L.	0734 hrs.
Cross S.L. ditch	0749 hrs.
Reach Post 44	0757 hrs.

(b) Bearing of adv. 77° .

(c) Rate of adv., 150^{\times} in 2 mins.

(d) Each leading coy. will post 3 scouts to move 300^{\times} ahead to locate and signal positions of gaps in wire on ~~our~~ ^{coy.} front. These scouts will rejoin coy. on coy. reaching wire.

(e) "C" Coy. and H.Q. Coy. will use gaps in wire used by right fwd. coy.

(f) Left fwd. coy. will pass to left of POST 44, remainder of Bn. to right of this post.

14. Move from Post 44 to objective.

(a) Same Bn. formation will be maintained.

(b) Bearing of adv. 100° .

(c) Rate of adv. 100^{\times} per minute.

(d) Objectives.

"A" Coy - RIDGE at 51493952 from excl. W.D.I. and RE-ENTRANT 51533952 to incl. W.D.I. 51453952.

"B" Coy - RIDGE at 51553948 on approx. 400^{\times} front to incl. W.D.I. and RE-ENTRANT on left at 51533952.

"C" Coy - EAST end of ridge about 51613948 and to overlook CROSS ROADS at 51663948.

15. Reserve: "D" Coy. after assembling on completion of protective duties to follow in rear of Bn. to position at 51483945. "D" Coy. should cross S.L. 200^{\times} in rear of H.Q. Coy.

On passing enemy wire "D" Coy. will detach one pl. to report to POST 45 and take over guarding of prisoners captured by 2/1 and 2/2 Bn. Duty of this pl. to escort prisoners to P.O.W. cage at centre of S.L. after 0800 hrs. D1.

16. Carriers. O.G. H.Q. Coy. will detail 2 carriers (each with crew of 2 only) to proceed with marching personnel of Bn. to report to Bn. H.Q. portion of concentration area at 1730 hrs. D-1.

Carrier Pl. less det. will move with essential tpt. referred to in Administrative Instn. no. 1.

17. Mortar Pl - marching personnel move with Bn. Mortar trucks move with essential tpt. and report to O.C. H.Q. Coy. on arrival at objective.

18. Pioneers - O.C. H.Q. Coy. will detail 6 personnel to move with Bn. H.Q. - Pioneer pl. less this det. as in administrative instn. no. 1.

19. ... Pl. as in adm. Instn. no. 1.

20. L.Gs. (a) Pl. M.F. will move with essential tpt. and report to Bn. H.Q. at objective as soon as passage over tank ditch can be arranged. Bn. 2 i/c. will arrange this.
(b) L.G. tasks allotted on arrival of pl. at objective.

21. A.Tr. Guns as for L.Gs.

22. Relief of 2/3 Bn. in present position, concentration of 2/3 Bn. and subsequent move to assembly area - see operation instn. no. 1.

23. 2/3 Bn. will be responsible for protection of assembly area from time of arrival therein.

24. Direction.

The following magnetic compass bearings are given:-

- (a) 26 degrees - road running through present location 2/1 Bn. to KINGS CROSS (~~MARK~~ ~~GEORGE STREET~~) (KING ST.)
- (b) 29 degrees - rd. joining KINGS CROSS to assembly area (~~KING ST~~) (~~GEORGE ST.~~)
- (c) 91 degrees - rd. running from BMDL. to KINGS CROSS.
- (d) 77 degrees - assembly area to centre of S.L.
- (e) 167 degrees - bearing of S.L. from left to right.

DISPOSITION.

- 25. (a) Dress and Equipment
 - (b) Blankets
 - (c) Tools
 - (d) Amm.
 - (e) Respirators
 - (f) Rations
 - (g) Rum
 - (h) Wire cutters
- } See Administrative Instruction No. 1.

26. "A" and "B" Sch. tpt. - see ~~adm.~~^{op.} instn. no. 1.

27. Reserve Amm. - Q.L. will arrange on 2 Jan. to complete all res. amm. to war establishment.

28. Prisoners of War.

(a) Prisoners taken by 2/3 Bn. will be passed to guard detailed under Lt. Perry who will be responsible for their escort to POST 45.

(b) Div. P.O.W. cage located at centre of S.L. from 0800 hrs. onwards.

29. Straggler's post located in GEORGE ST. about 1000 yds. S.W. of assembly area.

30. ~~...~~ Medical.

(a) ...D.S. vicinity of KINGS CROSS.

(b) R.M.P. - Adv. R.M.P. will accompany marching personnel of Bn. - final location WADI vicinity Bn. H.Q.

(b) Walking wounded will re-trace steps taken in fwd. movement and look for ambulances enroute.

31. Ann. Point - Southern end of KING ST.

32. T.C.P. (a) Special enquiry post will be opened at POST 45 on capture.

(b) O.C. H.Q. Coy. immediately on capture of objectives will detail 2 guides to report to this post for purpose of guiding up tpt. on arrival at that post.

(c) M.T.O. will be responsible for bringing fwd. essential tpt. and will pick up guides at POST 45.

(d) Bn. 2 i/c will be in control of essential tpt. and responsible for movement fwd. of this tpt.

INTERCOMMUNICATION.

33. Adv. Bde. H.Q. opens assembly area 0500 hrs. DI and moves fwd in rear of 2/2 Bn. to report centre at POST 45. After capture of objective by 2/2 and 2/3 Bns., Bde. H.Q. located at POST 40.

34. Bn. H.Q. in WADI about 51523946.

35. Password, night D-1/DI AUSTRALIA.

36. Sigs. will establish V/T to all coys. on capture of objective and L/T as soon thereafter as possible.

37. Capitulation. In event of general capitulation of garrison of BARDI the word STOP will be signalled. On receipt of this all firing will cease.

J. J. Bennett Capt.
Adj. 2/3 Bn.

Issued by runner at 0700 hrs.

Signed at 2345 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Copy no. 1 - Bn. H.Q.
- 2 - H.Q. Coy.
- 3 - A Coy.
- 4 - B Coy.
- 5 - C Coy.
- 6 - D Coy.
- 7 - 16 Aust. ...Tk. Coy.
- 8 - Pl. N.F. M.G. Bn.
- 9 - 51 Fd. Bty. "F" Bty RHA
- 10 - 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. 104 Regt "
- 11 - C.O. "I" Regt
- 12/19 - File.
- 20/21 - War Diary.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By
Lieutenant-Colonel V.T. England,
Commanding 2/3rd. Battalion.

NOT TO BE
PUBLISHED.

No. 3 PART I. 27th Jan. '41.

1. DISCHARGING OF FIREARMS.

Under no circumstances will personnel discharge firearms of any sort unless duly authorised to do so by an officer or N.C.O. to whom this authority is deputed.

An important buoy was sunk by rifle fire on Saturday. Troops will NOT fire at any object on the harbour or foreshores.

2. POSTAGE RATES.

Commencing forthwith postage rates for mail matter posted in LIBYA by members of the A.I.F. to places within the British Empire will be as follows:-

Air Mail: Letters and packets not exceeding 14 grammes - 9d. (30 mils).
Articles exceeding 14 grammes - 1/6d. (59 mils), for each 14 grammes or part thereof.
Postcards, 5d. (17 mils).

Surface Mail: Under 4 oz - free;
Over 4 oz - postage is calculated on the total weight of the article.
Letters - 1d; per oz.
Printed Matter - 1d. per 8 oz.
Merchandise - (under 1 lb.) 1d. per 4 ozs.
Books, periodicals, newspapers - 1d. per 12 ozs.
Parcels, not exceeding

1 lb.	6d.	(20 mils)
2 "	9d.	(30 mils)
3 "	1/-d.	(39 mils)
5 "	1/3d.	(49 mils)
8 "	1/6d.	(59 mils)
11 "	1/9d.	(69 mils).

Australian postage stamps will be affixed to postal articles. Army seals may be used until supplies are exhausted.

3. PAYBOOKS OF WOUNDED MEN.

When a wounded man is evacuated his paybook will NOT be removed from his possession.

E.S. Walker Lieut.
Actg. Adj. 2/3 Bn.

NOTICES.

1. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY.

The following message to 6 Aust. Div. and attached units has been received from Major-General I.G. Mackay, C.M.G., D.S.O., V. D., GOC. 6 Aust. Div:-

"Then asked recently my opinion of the troops under my Command the

answer was 'The highest tribute I can pay to 6 Aust Div and attached British troops is to ask of them, in the coming attack on TOBRUK the same cheerfulness, teamwork, daring and resolution as they gave at BARDIA.' This demand you have all answered in full measure, TOBRUK is in our hands and I thank each one for the part he played in the capture.

The C-in-C., General Sir Archibald Wavell, and the G.O.C. VIII Corps, Lieut.-General R. O'Connor, both visited Tobruk yesterday and both laid on me the pleasing duty of conveying to you all, their warmest thanks and congratulations upon your fine military achievement."

2. The following message has been received:-

"Please convey to Crookwell boys your Battalion the old Diggers' admiration and congratulations for magnificent work at BARDIA. (Sgd) S. Lund, President Crookwell Returned Soldiers".

DISTRIBUTION:

- Bn. H.Q. - 1 copy.
- H.Q. Coy. - 1 copy.
- A Coy. - 1 copy.
- B Coy. - 1 copy.
- C Coy. - 1 copy.
- DCoy. - 1 copy.
- HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde - 2 copies.
- C.O. - 1 copy.
- Bn. 2 i/c. - 1 copy.
- Q.M. - 1 copy.
- R.M.O. - 1 copy.
- War Diary - 2 copies.
- File - 2 copies.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Lieutenant-Colonel V.T. England,
Commanding 2/3rd. Battalion.

NOT TO BE
PUBLISHED.

No. 2

PART I

25 Jan., 41.

1. TRUCKS, 15 CWT., 4-WHEELED, FORD. CANADIAN TYPE.

(a) The ground clearance of the Truck, 15 cwt., 4-wheeled, Ford, Canadian type, is slightly less than that of the Truck, 15 cwt., 4-wheeled, Morris, to which most units have been accustomed.

(b) All drivers will be warned to be careful when driving this type of vehicle over rocky or uneven ground, otherwise back axle casings may be damaged.

2. SIGNING INDENTS FOR SUPPLIES.

Indents demanding supplies from the A.A.S.C. will be signed by an Officer. On the delivery of the supplies to units the loading lists may be signed by other ranks, but the receipt on the indent will be signed by an Officer.

3. ARMS ETC.

Pistols and Amn. will be carried by Officers and Warrant Officers Class I when at the Libyan front only.

4. BOUNDS.

B.R.O. No. 1, para. 1, of 10 Jan. 41 is cancelled, and the following substituted:- "'Tommy's Bar', 25 Sharia Adly Pasha, CAIRO, is placed out of bounds to Other Ranks."

5. LOOTING.

(i) Cases are prevalent of the removal and appropriation by Officers and Other Ranks of:-

- (a) Spare parts, accessories, etc, from captured or broken down enemy vehicles;
- (b) Weapons, ammunition, equipment, effects, etc. left by or captured from the Enemy.

(ii) This practice will cease forthwith and will in future be regarded as "Looting", all cases of which will be severely dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

6. LEADED PETROL - PRECAUTIONS.

(a) Almost all the petrol now being supplied ex Military 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 for any household appliances.

(b) The practice of sucking up a rubber tube, in order to syphon it out of the tanks of Motor vehicles will be discontinued.

(c) If for any reason 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.

7. GUNS MACHINE GUNS - RODS CLEANING.

(a) Damage to the Extractor Way of the Gun Machine Bren .503" frequently occurs when the guns are cleaned with Rods Cleaning M.G. Mk.II "B".

(b) This damage may be avoided if a piece of bicycle pedal rubber, cut to approximately one inch in length, is drawn on to the handle end of the cleaning rod.

(c) This service will be carried out by units, discarded unserviceable bicycle pedal rubbers being used. If a/s bicycle pedal rubbers are not available, indents will be submitted by units to D.A.D.O.S.

8. REPLACEMENT OF KIT LOST ON SERVICE.

(a) Equipment, clothing and necessaries lost on active service will be replaced by Ordnance issues, and monetary compensation in respect of such losses will not be admissible.

(b) Replacement of articles of kit which are not an Ordnance issue will be made by special purchases by Ordnance Department as a charge against Australian Funds. The articles replaced by special purchase by Ordnance Department will not exceed in cost the total amount of £A15, and will be restricted to those articles which may be considered a fair and reasonable requirement of active service.

(c) Replacement by special purchase will only be made when -
 (i) There is conclusive evidence of the loss;
 (ii) The loss was due to the exigencies of the service and is not attributable to negligence on the part of the officer concerned.

(d) All claims for special purchase will be submitted on A.I.F. Form Q.2, copies of which may be obtained by units direct from Stationary Depot, Printing and Stationary Services.

9. AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE CANTEEN SERVICE - CANTEEN ORDERS.

On presentation of an order, the canteen attendant must satisfy himself that the Order is genuine and that it has not been cut, defaced, mutilated, that no erasure or alteration has been made on the Order, and that:

(a) it bears an impression of the date stamp of the Issuing Post Office;

(b) the name and regimental number of the presenter are shown in the allotted spaces on the Order;

(c) The Order is signed by the person named in the Order in the prescribed place;

(d) the Order has been stamped on the back by the Unit Orderly Office and signed by an officer, signifying that the Order has been received by the rightful owner named in the Order.

Orders are no longer issued in the denomination of 10/- and 20/- and can now be obtained only for 5/-, 3/- and 2/-.

10. SICK PARADES.

Until further notice, sick parades will be held at the following times:-

0900 hrs.
1545 hrs.

11. ITALIAN TELEPHONE CABLE.

All ranks are warned that they MUST not interfere with Italian telephone cable lying on the ground, as some of this forms part of our signal communication system.

12. BLACKOUT.

Under no circumstances will lights be shown after 1745 hrs. or before 0700 hrs. Provided doors and windows are efficiently curtained, lights may be lit inside buildings.

for Lieut.
Actg. Adj. 2/3 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION:

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Q.M. - 1 copy.
R.M.O. - 1 copy. ✓
War Diary - 2 copies.
File - 2 copies.

War Diary

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 1.

Copy No. 21

1 Jan. 1941

ANZLITIAN WAR MEMORIAL
 Series of records of 1939-45
 War commenced in 1951

This record came from

Provisional Classification No.

Ref. Corps : BARDIA North and South, 1/50,000.

(1) DRESS AND EQUIPMENT.

- (a) Dress.
- (i) Battle Order (Respirator at alert).
 - (ii) Goggles to be worn with equipment outside g/cont.
 - (iii) Haversack on back, water bottle (filled) and mess tins in haversack.
 - (iv) G/Sheet rolled and strapped to haversack.
- (b) Equipment.
- (i) Each man will carry 150 rounds .303 S&W and at least one H.L. Grenade.
 - (ii) All Brens, Mk. Rifles and two-inch mortars will be taken on the Coy. truck to the concentration area. Pl. less two dets. allotted for protection of "B" Bch. will place their Brens on the M.T.O's. truck. From the concentration area forward, weapons will be manhandled with the exception of Bren tripods, and the two-inch mortars and ammunition, which will remain on coy trucks. These will come forward later with the essential transport. In the case of the Pl., one det. will remain with the essential tpt. travelling with the M.T.O. The remaining det. will leave tripod on the M.T.O's. truck and will move forward with the Bn.
 - (iii) All Bren Mags. will be loaded with 20 rds. .303 S&W between 1200 hrs. and 1600 hrs. on D-1. Extra ammunition normally carried in mags. when loaded to full capacity will be carried loose in mag. pouches.
 - (iv) All offrs. will carry 2 rounds .455 S&W. Those not in possession of this quantity will obtain extra from the R.S.M. prior to 1200 hrs. D-1.
 - (v) If available, sandbags will be carried by personnel on the scale of four per man.
 - (vi) All tools will be taken in coy. truck to the concentration area. From this area forward tools on the scale of two picks and two shovels per sec. will be manhandled. Remaining tools will go forward later.
 - (x) In coy trucks, (x) Packs will be loaded onto coy. tpt. classed as non-essential by 1000 hrs. on D-1 and will be returned later to "B" Bch. with the tpt.

(2) TRANSPORT.

(a) The following transport will accompany the Bn. to the concentration area:-

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------|---|
| (i) | One truck per coy. | 5 |
| (ii) | M.T.O's. P.U. | 1 |
| (iii) | Sig. Truck | 1 |
| (iv) | Wireless truck | 1 |
| (v) | Mortar Trucks | 2 |
| (vi) | Reserve Coy. | 2 |
| (vii) | R.M.P.P. | 1 |
| (viii) | Pd. Amb. | 1 |
| (ix) | Carriers | 5 |
| (x) | M.G. Pl. | 5 |
| (xi) | Mk. Pl. | 5 |

Total

29

78

- (b) Remaining tpt. will report to present Bn. H.Q. location at 1430 hrs. on D-1. Immediately it is assembled it will move under the M.T.O. to the present "B" Ech. location. M.T.O. will be responsible for the reception and marshalling of their tpt. Q.M. will be responsible for moving such tpt. to the new "B" Ech. area.

(3) RATIONS.

- (a) Rations for D-1 will be normal with an additional hot meal being issued for consumption during early hours of D1. Q.M. will deliver this meal to present Bn. H.Q. area in two 30-cwt. trucks by 1600 hrs. D-1. Q.M. will instruct the drivers of these trucks of the new location of "B" Ech. and their route back to it from the Bn. concentration area. M.T.O. will arrange for the hot meal to accompany Bn. essential tpt. to the Bn. Concentration area and for its issue to coys. prior to 1830 hrs. on D-1. Meal will be consumed at Reveille on D1 and hot boxes and dixies will be stacked at each Coy. H.Q. immediately after the consumption of the meal.

- (b) Iron Ration will be issued to Coys. by the Q.M. as soon as it is available. Coy. Comds. will not issue this ration to personnel until 1400 hrs. on D-1. Attention is drawn to the necessity for instructing all personnel in the conserving of this ration.

(4) BLANKETS.

Blankets on the issue scale of four per man will be carried by personnel to the Bn. Concentration area. At Reveille on D1 blankets will be rolled in sec. bundles and stacked in Pl. dumps. These will be collected at first light together with empty dixies and hot boxes mention in para. 3 (c) by the ~~26xxxx~~ M.T.O. drivers of the ration trucks and will be returned to the new "B" Ech. area.

Q.M. will arrange delivery of blankets to correct coys. when tpt. classed as non-essential comes fwd.

(5) PRISONERS.

- (a) The following personnel will act as guard to prisoners taken:-

O.C. Guard	-	Lieut. J. L. Perry.
Troops	-	(i) Pioneer Pl. less det.
		(ii) Spare Carrier Personnel.
		(iii) Bn. H.Q. and H.Q. Coy. Officers' batmen.

O.C. H.Q. Coy. will prepare a nominal roll of guard personnel and submit it to Adjutant by 1000 hrs. D-1.

- (b) Excess Bren Guns and mags. in possession of Carrier Pl. will be handed over to Lieut. Perry by 1000 hrs. D-1.

7:40

(c) H.Q. Coy. truck will be available to Licut. Perry after objective has been captured. One Bren Gun. det. will be mounted on this truck and will be used to keep watch on prisoners beyond rushing distance.

(d) Further instructions re the collection of prisoners will be issued when the information is available.

(e) Det. of Pioneer Pl. mentioned in para. (a)(i) above will consist of six men detailed to remain with H.Q. Coy.

(These men will carry three picks and three shovels - tasks to be allotted by O.C. H.Q. Coy).

(6) GROUNDSTRIPS.

Coy. Comds. will ensure that their coy. is in possession of two white ground strips each 8' x 20". These must be placed out in the form of a cross (+) in front of the forward pls. immediately the objective is captured, or when coy. is held up. Failure to do this may result in our being bombed by our own aircraft.

(7) BN. ORDERLIES.

Personal orderlies for the C.O. on the scale of two per coy. will report with blankets, ammunition and rations to Bn. H.Q. at its present location by 1600 hrs. D-1. Packs etc. will previously have been placed on non-essential coy. transport. The men selected for this task must be the best available, as their job will require ability to deliver a verbal message clearly and accurately under any circumstance.

(8) SIGNALS.

(a) An attempt to exchange sig. wire will be made with the relieving Bn. In default of this, Sgt. Randall will commence reeling in Signal wire at 1300 hrs. D-1.

(b) Sig. terminals with coys. will retain V.T. equipment. Telephones will be collected when Sig. Wire is reeled in or if exchange of wire is made at 1530 hrs, and will be packed on the Sig. truck.

(9) BREN GUNS, .4. TK. RIFLES.

Coy. Comds will instruct all personnel that in the event of a man bearing a Bren gun or .4. Tk. rifle being wounded or killed, another member of the sec. will take over the Bren Gun or .4. Tk. rifle. ALL Bren Guns and .4. Tk. Rifles must reach the objective.

(10) S.A.M. RESERVE.

J.M. will arrange with the R.S.M. for all reserve ammunition to be carried on the two S.A.M. reserve trucks accompanying the essential tpt. J.M. will render to Bn. H.Q. by 0900 hrs. D-1 a statement of the ammunition carried on each truck.

(b) Details R.A.P. will be issued when available. Sgt. Burkhill will assist the R.S.M. in the supply of ammunition, and will ride in the second amh. truck.

(11) CASUALTIES.

Coy. Comds will instruct all ranks that ammunition belonging to casualties is to be removed prior to their evacuation to the R.A.P.

(12) SKETCH MAPS.

"I" Offr. will be prepared to produce during morning of D-1, sixty sketch maps showing:-

- (a) Present sub-unit locations;
- (b) Concentration area, assembly area, Start Line, Objectives and times of arrival at these areas mentioned.
- (c) Routes to areas in (b) above;
- (d) Prominent features which will assist in the recognition of (a) and (b) above.

These sketches will be issued down to sec. leaders at a 1 to hour on the afternoon of D-1. Coy. Comds will ensure that all sub-unit comds. are thoroughly conversant with the Bn. plan of attack.

(13) RULES ISSUED.

C.M. will forward to Bn. H.Q. on the afternoon of D-1 a rule issue for all ranks. This will be issued to troops between 1800 and 2000 hrs. D-1 in concentration area.

(14) WIRE CUTTERS AND GLOVES.

ALL wire cutters in possession of coys. will be fastened to the bearer by means of an improvised lanyard. Coy. Comds will ensure that this instruction is strictly adhered to, as the supply of wire cutters is limited and their loss may seriously affect the success of this operation. Licut. Perry will issue gloves to coys. on the scale of two prs. per rifle sec. by 1000 hrs. on D-1.

(15) MARKING OF H.Q.s.

Licut. Perry will issue to Coys. by 1000 hrs. on D-1, coy. signboards marked "A57" etc. These boards will be displayed at all times for tank recognition, both whilst on the move and when occupying a position.

(16) ACK.

F. G. Hassett
Capt.
Adjt. 2/3 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION.

- Copy no. 1 - Bn. H.Q.
- Copy No. 2 - H.Q. Coy.
- Copy no. 3 - A Coy.
- Copy No. 4 - B Coy.
- Copy no. 5 - C Coy.
- Copy no. 6 - D Coy.
- Copy no. 7 - 16 Aust. Lk. Coy.
- Copy no. 8 - Pl. M.G. Coy. (N.F. M.G. Bn).
- Copy No. 9 - 16 Aust. Inf. Bdc.
- Copy no. 10 - C.O.
- Copies nos. 11-19 - File.
- Copies 20-21 - War Diary.

War Diary

NOT TO BE ISSUED

2/3 BATTALION.

SECRET

OPERATION ORDER NO. 2.

Copy No 21

20 Jan., 41.

Ref. Map: TOBRUCH 1/50,000 (incl. overprint of 12 Jan. 41).

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy as in int. summaries already issued.
2. Own Troops.
 - (a) During D1 the undermentioned services are co-operating as under:-
 - (i) ROYAL NAVY is bombarding localities in TOBRUCH Fortress NORTH of EAST-WEST Grid 428.
 - (ii) 7 ARMD. DIV. is operating WEST of TOBRUCH and is seizing any opportunity of penetrating on that flank.
 - (iii) R.A.F. is co-operating.
3. 16 Aust. Inf. Bde., assisted by I Tanks and Arty., is attacking TOBRUCH defences at POSTS R55 and R57.
4. Attack will be in 3 phases:
 - (a) Penetration of defensive line by 2/3 Bn., which will then turn WEST along perimeter.
 - (b) 2/1 Bn., follows 2/3 Bn. and turns EAST along perimeter.
 - (c) 2/2 Bn. follows 2/1 Bn. and exploits NORTH.
 - (d) 1 N.F. (incl. 1 Bn.) and two Bron Troops & Aust. Cav. are co-operating.
 - (e) 2/6 Bn. came under control 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. 1600 hrs. D-1 and is co-operating in attack.
5. Objectives various units shown on trace 'A' already issued.
6. Following u/c 2/3 Bn:-
 - (a) One pl. 1 N.F.
 - (b) One Pl. 16 Aust. A.M. Coy.

In support 2/3 Bn:

- 'F' Bty. R.A.M.A.
- 104 Regt. R.A.M.A.

INTENTION.

7. 2/3 Bn. will secure a bridge head in the enemy perimeter from incl. POSTS R59, R56, R54 to incl. POSTS R44 and R47 by a night attack.

METHOD.

8. (a) Fwd. Coys.
 - Right 'C' Coy. - objective POSTS R57, R56 & R59.
 - Left 'D' Coy. - objective POSTS R55 and R54.
- (b) Rear Coys.
 - Right - 'B' Coy. - objective - RIDGE running SOUTH

of line formed by BIR EL CARMUSA (41414221) - BIR IUNES (41564225) - BIR LABIN (41284226) to about 41524222.

Leit - 'A' Coy. - objective - incl. POSTS R52, R53, R50, R51 and R46.

9. On capture POSTS R55 & R54 by 'D' Coy., 'A' Coy. will pass through 'D' Coy. Westwards, following I tanks along perimeter as barrage allows and dealing with each post in turn.

10. 'D' Coy. will then re-organise, and follow in rear of 'A' Coy., prepared to pass through to final objective POSTS R44 & R47.

11. 'B' Coy. will move on NORTH flank of 'A' Coy. on bearing from POST R57 of approx. 305° as barrage allows.

12. On capture of POSTS R56 & R61 by 2/1 Bn., 'C' Coy. will reorganise, come into reserve POST R55 and be prepared to fill gap on left of 'B' Coy.

13. Move to concentration and assembly areas (see 2/3 Bn. Operation Instrn. No. 1 issued with this order).

14. Action to assembly area - 2/3 Bn. Op. Instrn. No. 1.

15. Movement to S.L. and A/T. Ditch.

- (a) Formations (see diagram Appx. I).
- (b) Bearing of Adv. 360°.
- (c) Rate of adv. 100 yds. in 2 mins.
- (d) Zero 0540 hrs.
- (e) Short halt approx. 200 yds. from front of barrage to await lift of barrage and wire to be blown.

16. Timings.

Hours

- 0430 - Arrive F.U.P.
- 0445 - Depart F.U.P.
- 0529 (approx). - ~~Depart~~ Arrive S.L.
- 0540.0556 (Zero) - Depart S.L. 0556 (approx) - Arrive A.T. Ditch.
- 0605 - Arty. lifts from POSTS R55 and R57 - Bangalore parties blow wire - leading coys. advance on explosion of Bangalore.
- 0615 - Arty. lifts from posts R54 and R56 and these posts attacked.

17. Carrier Pl. less dismounted dets. and 2 carriers, move fwd. with essential tpt. and come into res. POST R52. O.C. Carrier Pl. will detail 2 carriers for Adj. & C.O. as in Admin. Instrn. No. 2.

18. M. Pl. - move with essential tpt. and come into res. at POST 53.

19. A.A. Pl. - see Administrative Instrn. No. 2.

20. Pioneers attached Engr. Bangalore party - 5 parties each 3 men. Lieut. Perry to arrange with Engr. offr. on D-1. After entry of fwd. coys. into perimeter pioneer pl. will reorganise and come into res. Bn. H.Q.

21. R.M.G. Pl. (1 N.F.) - move with essential tpt. - on arrival - role of consolidation on orders from Bn. H.Q.

22. A/Tk. Pl. - move with essential tpt. (see Adm. Instrn. No. 2) and report to Bn. H.Q. on arrival. Probable allotment, one gun to each 'B' and 'D' Coys. for consolidation - Pl. less 2 guns, protection of Bn. H.Q.

- 23. I Tanks - 1 Tp. I tanks supporting 'D' and 'A' Coys.
- 24. Synchronisation of time - All watches will be synchronised between 1400 hrs. and 1500 hrs. D-1.
- 25. Protection of Assembly Area - 2/3 Bn. will be responsible for protection of assembly area prior to departure of Bn. from F.U.P. O.C. H.Q. Coy. will arrange.
- 26. Booby Traps - Engrs. are disarming booby traps outside perimeter. All ranks are warned against booby traps, which may exist within.

ADMINISTRATION.

- 27. (a) Dress and equipment.)
 (b) Blankets.)
 (c) Tools.) see 2/3 Bn. Administrative
 (d) Amm.) Instruction No. 2.
 (e) Rations.)
 (f) Rum issue.)
 (g) Wire cutters.)
- 28. Respirators will not be carried.
- 29. Prisoners. Bde. collecting centre WEST end of Start Line. O.C. H.Q. Coy. will arrange for guard on prisoners and escort to collecting centre.
- 30. Medical.
 (a) A.D.S. 41754119.
 (b) R.M.O. with 3.55. less detts. will proceed with H.Q. Coy.
 (c) R.A.P. truck moves with essential tpt. and on arrival in perimeter reports Bn. H.Q.
 (d) Waking wounded will retrace steps and look for ambulances en route.
- 31. A.P. - Issued later.
- 32. P.P. in square 427408.
- 33. Traffic Control. Special enquiry post will be opened at POST R57 when captured. On arrival at objective two guides per coy. will be sent back to this post to guide essential tpt.

INTERCOMMUNICATION.

- 34. (a) Adv. Bde. H.Q. at post R57 on capture.
 (b) Bn. H.Q. at Post R55 on capture, moving later to Post R50.
- 35. Password - Night D-1/D1, KANGAROO.
- 36. Sigs. will lay line to fwd. coys. on capture of final objective.
- 37. Captured Tanks. If these are used by us they will fly either an Aust. Ensign or a Khaki pennant and will have 2' high Kangaroos painted on sides of hull and turret.
- 38. Capitulation - In the event of a general capitulation of the garrison of TOBRUCH, the word STOP will be signalled. All firing will then cease.

ACK.

B. G. Walker Lt. Col.
 Acting Adj. 2/3 Bn.

Issued by at hrs.

Page 5.

Copy no. 1 - Bn. n.v.
" " 2 - H.Q. Coy.
" " 3 - A Coy.
" " 4 - B Coy.
" " 5 - C Coy.
" " 6 - D Coy.
" " 7 - 16 Aust. A.Tk. Coy.
" " 8 - Pl. 1 N.F. (M.G. Bn.)
" " 9 - 'F' Bty. R.A.A.
" " 10 - 104 Regt. R.A.A.
" " 11 - 7 M.T.R.
" " 12 - C.O.
Copies nos. 13/20 - File.
" " 21/22 - War Diary.

13 to 2/17d Coy

16 to L.O.

18 to RMD

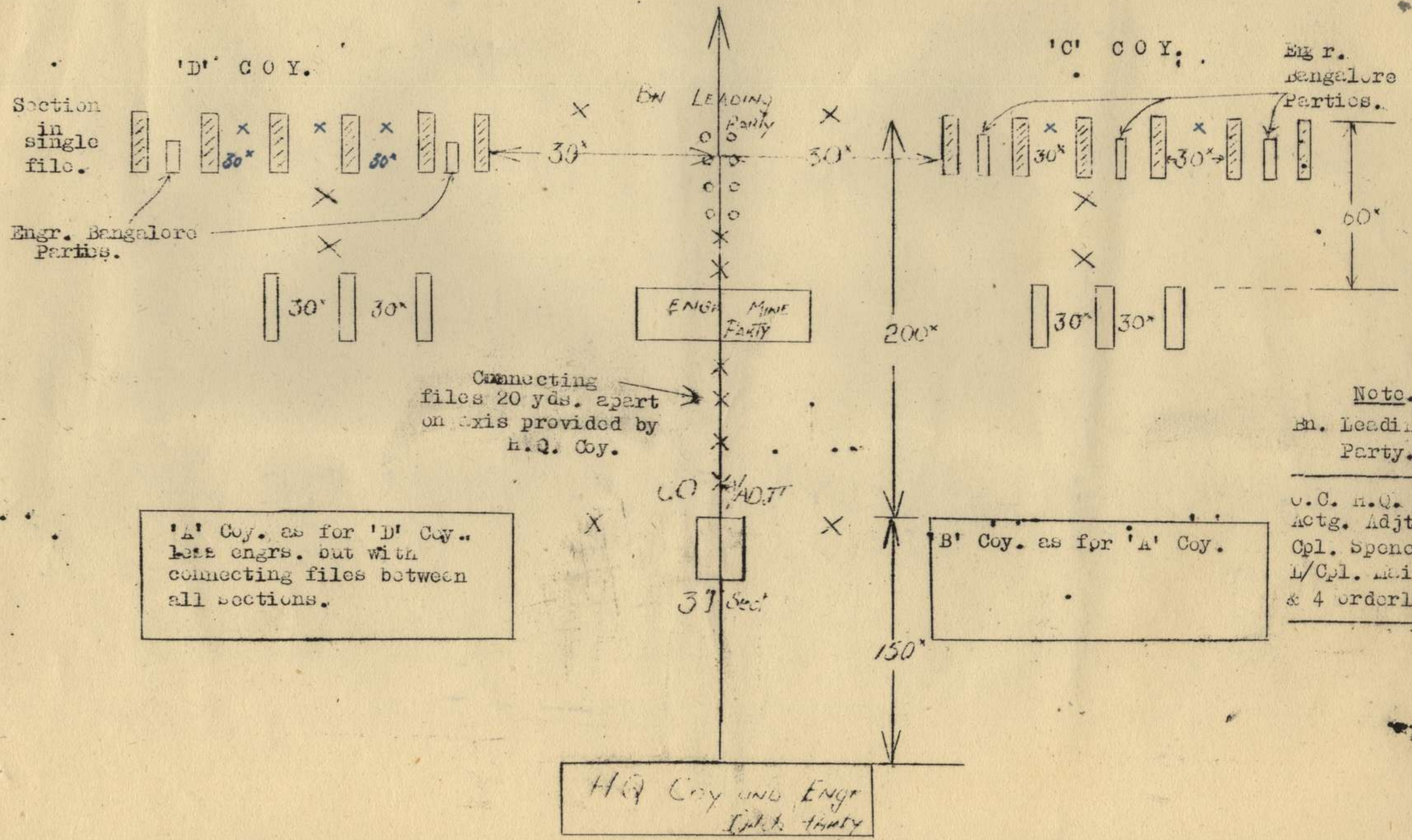
19 to MTO

APPENDIX I

Issued with 2/3 BN G.P. ORDERS No 2

Not to Scale

SECRET
Copy No.



2/3 BN. OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 1.

(Issued in conjunction with 2/3 Bn. Operation Order No. 2 dated 20 Jan. 41).

Ref. Map: TOBRUCH 1/50,000, Red
Overprint of 12 Jan. 41.

Copy No. **20**
20 Jan. 41.

(1) MOVE TO CONCENTRATION AREA.

- (a) The concentration area has been marked and recced. Coy. areas have been marked by pegs as far as pl. localities.
- (b) Coy. Comd. will recced. their own routes to concentration area during afternoon D-1. Accurate compass bearings and paces will be noted.
- (c) Timings - All Coys. together with their essential tpt. will commence movement from present locations at 1800 hrs. No movement will take place before this time.
- (d) On arrival at concentration area, coys. will report to Bn. H.Q., located with H.Q. Coy.
- (e) Tpt - essential tpt. will remain in coy. areas at concentration area during night D-1/DI and will be marshalled by M.T.O. at first light.
- (f) Coy. Comd. P.O., Qftr's, Mess and Bn. Office will report to present H.Q. area not later than 1715 hrs. D-1 for move to 'B' Echelon to join non-essential tpt. M.T.O. will arrange.
- (g) Bn. H.Q. closes present location 1800 hrs. D-1 and re-opens at concentration area at 1800 hrs.
- (h) Communication at concentration area by runner. Coy. Comd. and Lieut. Randall will familiarise all runners with location of Bn. H.Q. and Coy. H.Q.

(2) ACTION AT CONCENTRATION AREA.

- (a) Immediately on arrival personnel will dig slit traches. Tools unloaded from essential tpt. will be repacked immediately on completion.
- (b) Rum issue will be made between 1800 and 2000 hrs., care being taken to prevent any man obtaining more than his correct issue. Rum will be issued to coys. during afternoon of D-1 to enable it to be split into pl. lots.
- (c) Reveille will be at 0200 hrs. DI.
- (d) Blankets will be rolled immediately in section rolls and dumped in pl. areas.
- (e) Pls. will concentrate to within 30^x of coy. H.Q. area where hot meal and tea will be issued and consumed.
- (f) Coys. will be formed up in col. of route ready to move off at 0310 hrs. Distances - lateral, 3 yds. between sections. Depth - 10 yds. between pls., 30 yds. between coys.

(3) MOVE TO ASSEMBLY AREA.

- (a) Assembly area has been previously recced, and pegged to indicate coy. flanks.
- (b) Route to assembly area - Cross country from head of concentration area on bearing of 300° for 1200 yds. where

E - W road is found - left along road to 'S' bend, from bond 400 yds. to centre of ASSEMBLY area where guide will be located.

- (c) Order of March - D Coy.
- C Coy.
- A Coy.
- B Coy.
- Bn. H.Q. & H.Q. Coy.

(d) S.T. 0330.

(4) ACTION AT ASSEMBLY AREA.

(a) On reaching assembly area coys. will adopt the formation outlined to coy. comd. and pegged on ground and marked by coy. guides.

(5) GUIDES.

Guides on scale of 3 per coy. will report to Adj. at concentration area not later than 1900 hrs. Guides will rejoin coys. at assembly area.

(6) MOVE TO S.L.

Direction and distance will be maintained by connecting files - lateral connecting files to be arranged by coys. - connecting files in depth will be arranged by O.C. H.Q. Coy. and will take up position on arrival at ASSEMBLY AREA.

(7) DISCIPLINE.

No lights, no smoking, no talking from time of leaving present coy. areas. Repetition of the lack of control by subordinate leaders on approach march at BARDIA might well be disastrous in this case.

K.S. Walker
 Lieut.
 Actg. Adj. 2/3 Bn.

Issued by at hrs.

Signed at 1420 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Copy No. 1 - Bn. H.Q.
- " " 2 - H.Q. Coy.
- " " 3 - A Coy.
- " " 4 - B Coy.
- " " 5 - C Coy.
- " " 6 - D Coy.
- " " 7 - 16 Aust. A.Tk. Coy.
- " " 8 - Pl. 1 N.F. (M.G. Bn.)
- " " 9 - 'F' Bty. R.H.A.
- " " 10 - 104 Regt. R.H.A.
- " " 11 - 7 R.T.R.
- " " 12 - 15 Aust. Inf. Bde.
- " " 13 - C.O.
- Copies Nos. 14/21 - File.
- " " 22/23 - War Diary.

(1) DRESS & EQUIPMENT.

- (a) Dress:
- (i) Battle Order, water bottles filled and slung on right side. Orders re respirator will be issued later.
 - (ii) Waterproof sheets will not be carried.
 - (iii) Greatcoats will not be carried but will be rolled on pack when loaded into Coy. non-essential tpt.
 - (iv) Leather jerkins will be worn with warm clothing, equipment worn outside jerkin.
 - (v) Haversack on back containing mess tin, one tin of bully beef and two pkts. of biscuits, together with change of socks and underclothes at discretion of Coy. Comds.
 - (vi) All ranks will wear a white patch approx. 6 inches square, sewn to haversack.
- (b) Equipment:
- (i) Each man will carry 100 rds. .303 S.A.A. and at least one H.S. Grenade.
 - (ii) All Bren magazines will be loaded with 20 rds. .303 S.A.A. between 1200 hrs. & 1600 hrs. on D-1. Extra amn. normally carried in magazines when loaded to full capacity will be carried in magazine pouches.
 - (iii) All officers will carry pistols with 24 rds. .455 S.A.A. or if not available, .38 Beretta automatics with similar quantity of amn.
 - (iv) Packs will be loaded into coy. tpt. classed as non-essential by 1130 hrs. on D-1.
 - (v) All weapons will be manhandled from present coy. areas to concentration area and thence forward. A/A. Pl. less 2 dets. allotted for protection of 'B' Ech. will place their Bren tripods on M.T.O's. truck. Bren tripods of coys. and such 2-inch mortar amn. as cannot be carried by the 2-inch mortar personnel, will be loaded on essential tpt. In the case of A/A. Pl., 1 det. will remain with the essential tpt., travelling with the M.T.O. The remaining det. will leave Bren tripod on the M.T.O's. truck and will move forward with its Bren gun and A.Tk. rifle with H.Q. Coy. O.C. H.Q. Coy. will ensure that full supply of Bren and A.Tk. magazines and amn. is carried by this det.
 - (vi) All tools will be taken in Coy. essential tpt. to the concentration area. Immediately on completion of digging of slit trenches in concentration area, Coy. Comds. will ensure that all tools are reloaded on to Coy. truck.
 - (vii) Q.A.

W

(vii) Q.M. will arrange for an issue to Coys. by 1200 hrs. on D-2 of sandbags on the scale of 300 per Coy. These will be carried on essential tpt. Remaining sandbags will be loaded by Q.M. onto 'B' Ech. Bn. 2 i/c. will arrange that these sandbags are on immediate call if required in forward areas.

(2) TRANSPORT.

(a) The following is the essential Bn. tpt. and will accompany the Bn; to the concentration area:-

~~As per Adm. Inst. No. 1 BARDIA, to (vii),~~ See last
~~1000 (viii) Fd. Amp.,~~ page of
~~(ix) Carriers (1000 carriers for C.O. and Adj.)~~ this
Instruction.

(b) Two carriers for C.O. and Adj. will report to Bn. H.Q. at 1600 hrs. on D-1 and will move subsequently in accordance with separate instructions. Bn. 2 i/c. will be responsible for sending these carriers forward at the first opportunity.

(c) Essential tpt. of M.G. pl. and A.Tk. Pl. will R.V. at present Bn. H.Q. area by 1730 hrs. on D-1 and remain in that area until taken over by Bn. 2 i/c. on D1.

(d) The non-essential tpt. of Coys. will report to present Coy. areas at 0930 hrs. on D-1, will be loaded by 1130 hrs. and will return to 'B' Ech. area, reporting back to Q.M. by 1300 hrs.

(3) RATIONS.

(a) Rations for D-1 will be normal but will be delivered at H.Q. Coy. at not later than 1130 hrs. Coy. trucks will report for collection of these rations to O.C. H.Q. Coy. not later than 1115 hrs. on D-1. Hot-boxes and dioxies will be returned by Coys. to O.C. H.Q. Coy. not later than 1300 hrs.

(b) Q.M. will issue to Coys. iron rations on the scale of 12 ozs, preserved meat, 8 ozs. biscuits per man prior to D-1.

(c) Q.M. will arrange for the cooking and delivery of a hot meal, and tea, to be consumed on the night D-1/D1. This will be delivered to the Bn. concentration area between 1730 hrs. and 1800 hrs. D-1., and will be in three trucks, as under:-

- No. 1 truck - C and D Coys.
- No. 2 truck - A and B Coys.
- No. 3 truck - H.Q. Coy. and Bn. H.Q.

These trucks will remain for the night D-1/D1 in Bn. concentration area, and will collect on the morning D1 the blankets of the Bn, as in para. (5) below. Bn. 2 i/c. will arrange for return of ration trucks to 'B' Ech. area at first light on D1, and ensure that drivers collect empty hot-boxes and dioxies.

(d) Bn. 2 i/c. will ensure that when rations are delivered to the Bn. during action, ration trucks are accompanied by either Q.M. or R.Q.M.S., ~~xxxx~~ who will report on arrival to Bn. H.Q. Not less than two trucks will be sent up with rations.

5¹ (4) Water

W.

(4) WATER.

(a) Q.M. will arrange for as much water as possible to be delivered by 0800 hrs. on D-1. Coys. will arrange to send in Coy. trucks with water cans to report to O.C. H.Q. Coy. at 0730 hrs. on that day.

(b) Any empty cans in possession of Coys. after the departure of non-essential tpt. on D-1 will be taken to concentration area and there packed into ration trucks which deliver hot meal on night D-1/D1. Coy. Comds. will ensure that this is done as soon as the ration truck reaches this area.

(5) BLANKETS.

Blankets on the issue scale of four per man will be carried by personnel to the bn. concentration area. At Reveille on D1 blankets will be rolled in sec. bundles and stacked in Pl. dumps. These will be collected at first light together with empty dixies and hot boxes mentioned in para. 3(2) by the M.T. drivers of the ration trucks and will be returned to the 'B' Ech. area.

Q.M. will arrange delivery of blankets to correct coys. when tpt. classed as non-essential comes fwd.

(6) PRISONERS.

(a) The following personnel will act as guard to prisoners taken:-

O.C. Guard - Lieut. G. B. G. King.
Troops - To be arranged by O.C. H.Q. Coy.

O.C. H.Q. Coy. will prepare a nominal roll of guard personnel and submit it to Adjutant by 1000 hrs. D-1.

(b) If possible, O.C. H.Q. Coy. will make available to O.C. Guard, a truck on which a Bren gun detachment will be mounted and used to keep watch on prisoners beyond rushing distance.

(7) GROUNDSTRIPS.

Coys. will ensure that white groundstrips in the form of a cross is set up on the line of the forward pls., immediately an objective is captured or if the Coy. is at any time held up.

(8) MOTOR CYCLISTS.

O.C. H.Q. Coy. will arrange for four motor-cycle D.Rs. to move forward with bn. essential tpt. Remaining motor-cyclists will move with non-essential tpt.

(9) SIGNALS.

(a) Sig. Offr. will commence reeling in wire to present Coy. locations at 1300 hrs. on D-1, and will ensure that all telephones are collected and packed in signals truck.

(b) Sig. terminals at present with coys. will remain, as will coy. runners at present attached to Bn. H.Q.

(10) BREN GUNS, A.TK. RIFLES.

Coy. Comds. will instruct all personnel that in the event of a man bearing a Bren gun or A.Tk. rifle being wounded or killed, another member of the sec. will take over the Bren gun or A.Tk. rifle, and also collect magazines. All Bren guns and A.Tk. Rifles must reach the objective.

Coy. Comds.....

Coy. Comds. will ensure that every man of their cmd. is impressed with the necessity for the care and conservation of Bren Gun and A.Tk. Rifle magazines. The loss of these magazines which occurred in the Battle of BARDIA must NOT be repeated.

(11) S.A.A. RESERVE.

(a) Q.M. will arrange with the R.S.M. for all reserve amn. to be carried on the two S.A.A. reserve trucks accompanying the essential tpt. Q.M. will render to Bn. H.Q. by 0900 hrs. D-1 a statement of the amn. carried in each truck.

(b) Details re A.P. will be issued when available.

(12) CASUALTIES.

(a) Coy. Comds. will instruct all ranks that amn. belonging to casualties is to be removed prior to their evacuation to the R.A.P.

(b) Coy. Comds. will ensure that a nominal roll of all casualties sustained up to 0600 hrs. each day is submitted to Bn. H.Q. by 0800 hrs. on the following day.

(13) RUM ISSUE.

Q.M. will forward to Bn. H.Q. on the afternoon of D-1 a rum issue for all ranks. This will be issued to troops between 1800 and 2000 hrs. D-1 in concentration area.

(14) WIRE CUTTERS AND GLOVES.

Wire Cutters will be issued to Coys. to bring the scale of issue as far as possible to three per sec. Additional wire cutters will be collected by Coy. Comds. immediately on conclusion of the action and returned to Bn. H.Q.

ALL wire cutters in possession of coys. will be fastened to the bearer by means of an improvised lanyard. Coy. Comds. will ensure that this instruction is strictly adhered to, as the supply of wire cutters is limited and their loss may seriously affect the success of this operation.

(15) MARKING OF H.Qs.

Coys. will ensure by D-1 that they are in possession of a signboard marking their H.Q. similar to that used in the BARDIA action. These boards will be carried well displayed by each Coy. H.Q. at all times. Lieut. PERRY will arrange for the necessary board for Bn. H.Q.

(16) ACK.

E. D. Walker Lieut.
Acting Adjt. 2/3 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No. 1 - Bn. H.Q.
" " 2 - H.Q. Coy.
" " 3 - A Coy.
" " 4 - B Coy.
" " 5 - C Coy.
" " 6 - D Coy.
" " 7 - 16 Aust. A.Tk. Coy.
" " 8 - Pl. N.F. M.G. Bn.
" " 9 - 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.
" " 10 - C.O.
" " 11-19 - File.
" " 20-21 - War Diary.

Amendment to Para. 2(a) - "TRANSPORT".

The following is the essential bn. tpt. and will accompany the Bn. to the concentration area:-

(i) One truck per coy.	5
(ii) M.T.O's. P.U.	1
(iii) Sig. Truck	1
(iv) Wireless Truck	1
(v) Mortar Trucks	2
(vi) Reserve S.A.A.	2
(vii) R.A.P.	1
(viii) Carriers (less carriers for C.O. and Adjst.)	3
	<u>16</u>

16

2/3rd. BATTALION OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO. 1.

Issued in conjunction with 2/3 Bn. Operation Order No. 1
dated 1 Jan. 41.

Ref. Maps : BARDIA North and South 1/50,000.

Copy No.
2 Jan. 41.

1. RELIEF OF 2/3 BN.

(a) 2:3 Bn. will be relieved in its present location by a Bn of the 19 Aust Inf Bde before 1730 hrs on D-1.

(b) Guides from each coy on the scale of one per Coy H.Q. and one per pl will report to Bn. H.Q. at 1600 hrs D-1. These personnel will guide relieving troops direct to their new locations immediately they arrive in the Bn area.

(c) Prior to leaving the area Coy Comds will hand over details of coy localities together with fire plans to the relieving coy cmd. Reports stating handover ~~will~~ has been completed will be submitted to Bn; H.Q. at its present location as soon as possible.

2. MOVE TO CONCENTRATION AREA.

(a) The concentration area has been previously reced and the coy areas marked by pegs as far as pl localities. Dispositions are shown on trace A attached.

(b) Routes to concentration area - see Trace A. Bn 2 i/c M.T.O. and Coy Comds will recce routes to the concentration area during D-1, and accurate compass bearings and paces to respective localities will be noted.

(c) Timings. (i) Rifle Coys' personnel and coy trucks will commence movement from present locations at 1730 hrs. No movement by rifle coy personnel will take place before this time.

(ii) Bn HQ and HQ Coy marching personnel will depart present location at 1700 hrs D-1.

(iii) Essential M.T. less Rifle Coy trucks, M.G. Pl and A/Tk Coy tpt will depart present location under the Bn 2 i/c at 1730 hrs D-1 and will be dispersed in area shown on Trace A.

(iv) Tpt for the M.G. Pl and A/Tk Coy will remain in present dispersion area East of Bn H Q and will be brought up conc area at first light D1 by the Bn 2 i/c.

(v) At the concentration area R&P truck will move into Bn HQ area and will move forward to assembly area with the marching personnel.

(d) On arrival at the concentration area, coys will report in to Bn HQ.

(e) Bn HQ closes at present location at 1730 hrs D-1 and reopens at new location at 1800 hrs D-1.

(f) Communication at the concentration area will be by runner. Coy Comdrs and Sgt Randall will ensure that all runners are conversant with location of Bn HQ and Coy HQ's.

3. ACTION AT CONCENTRATION AREA.

(a) Coys will construct slit trenches for coy personnel as seen as possible after their arrival. Tools unloaded from the coy trucks, which will remain in coy areas, must be repacked immediately the trenches are completed.

2/3rd. BATTALION OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO. 1.

Issued in conjunction with 2/3 Bn. Operation Order No. 1
dated 1 Jan. 41.

Ref. Maps : BARDIA North and South 1/50,000.

Copy No.
2 Jan. 41.

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(c) Prior to leaving the area Coy Comds will hand over details of coy localities together with fire plans to the relieving coy cmd. Reports stating handover ~~will~~ has been completed will be submitted to Bn; H.Q. at its present location as soon as possible.

2. MOVE TO CONCENTRATION AREA.

(a) The concentration area has been previously reced and the coy areas marked by pegs as far as pl localities. Dispositions are shown on trace A attached.

(b) Routes to concentration area - see Trace A. Bn 2 i/c M.T.O. and Coy Comds will recce routes to the concentration area during D-1, and accurate compass bearings and paces to respective localities will be noted.

(c) Timings. (i) Rifle Coys' personnel and coy trucks will commence movement from present locations at 1730 hrs. No movement by rifle coy personnel will take place before this time.

(ii) Bn HQ and HQ Coy marching personnel will depart present location at 1700 hrs D-1.

(iii) Essential M.T. less Rifle Coy trucks, M.G. Pl and A/Tk Coy tpt will depart present location under the Bn 2 i/c at 1730 hrs D-1 and will be dispersed in area shown on Trace A.

(iv) Tpt for the M.G. Pl and A/Tk Coy will remain in present dispersion area East of Bn H Q and will be brought up conc area at first light D1 by the Bn 2 i/c.

(v) At the concentration area RSP truck will move into Bn HQ area and will move forward to assembly area with the marching personnel.

(d) On arrival at the concentration area, coys will report in to Bn HQ.

(e) Bn HQ closes at present location at 1730 hrs D-1 and reopens at new location at 1800 hrs D-1.

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(a) Coys will construct slit trenches for coy personnel as soon as possible after their arrival. Tools unloaded from the coy trucks, which will remain in coy areas, must be repacked immediately the trenches are completed.

(2)

(b) Immediately on their arrival at the concentration area coys will issue arms, equipment and tools which are to be manhandled to the assembly area (vide Adm Instn No 1) These will be issued to sections prior to turning in for the night.

Reveille on D1 will be at 0130 hrs. Coys will carry out routine laid down in Adm Inst, No 1.

4. ASSEMBLY AREA.

(a) Location of assembly area is shown in Trace attached.

(b) Route to assembly area see Trace attached.

(c) Order of march. Bn HQ, "A" Coy; "B" Coy, "C" Coy, H Q Coy.

(d) "D" Coy will move in accordance with Instn contained in 2/3 Bn OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 2.

(e) Column of Route - 3 paces, lateral distance between sections 50 yds interval between Pls with two connecting files - 100 yds interval between Coys with three connecting files.

(f) Start Time - 0300 hrs D1.

(g) Essential tpt less 2 carriers (C O's and Adjts) and RAP truck will remain in the concentration area under the Bn 2 i/c. Further movement will be in accordance with separate instructions issued to the Bn 2 i/c.

5. ACTION AT ASSEMBLY AREA.

(a) On reaching assembly area Coys will adopt formation laid down in para 11 of 2/3 Bn OPERATION ORDER NO 1 and will then lie down and await the time to move.

(Sgd) F.G. HASSETT Capt.
Adj't 2/3 Bn.

Issued by runner at 1300 hrs.

Signed at 1215 Hrs.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No 1. Bn H Q.
2. H Q Coy.
3. A Coy.
4. B Coy.
5. C Coy.
6. D Coy.
7. 16 Aust A/T Coy.
8. Pl; N.F. M.G. Bn.
9. 51 Fd Bty.
10. 16 Aust Inf Bde.
11. C.O.
12/19. File.
20/21. War Diary.

(2)

(b) Immediately on their arrival at the concentration area coys will issue arms, equipment and tools which are to be manhandled to the assembly area (vide Adm Instn No 1) These will be issued to sections prior to turning in for the night.

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4. ASSEMBLY AREA.

- (a) Location of assembly area is shown in Trace attached.
- (b) Route to assembly area see Trace attached.
- (c) Order of march. Bn HQ, "A" Coy; "B" Coy, "C" Coy, H Q Coy.
- (d) "D" Coy will move in accordance with Instn contained in 2/3 Bn OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 2.
- (e) Column of Route - 3 paces, lateral distance between sections 50 yds interval between Pls with two connecting files - 100 yds interval between Coys with three connecting files.
- (f) Start Time - 0300 hrs D1.
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(Sgd) F.G. HASSETT Capt.
Adj't 2/3 Bn.

Issued by runner at 1300 hrs.

Signed at 1215 Hrs.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No 1. Bn H Q.
2. H Q Coy.
3. A Coy.
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9. 51 Fd Bty.
10. 16 Aust Inf Bde.
11. C.O.
12/19. File.
20/21. War Diary.

WAR
DIARY
2

2/3rd. Battalion.

SECRET.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 1.

Copy No.

1 Jan. 41.

Ref. Maps: BARDIA NORTH and BARDIA SOUTH 1/50,000

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy - as per Intelligence Summaries.
Own Tps.
2. 16 Aust Inf Bde is attacking BARDIA assisted by 17 Aust Inf Bde, Arty, "I" Tanks and 4 Armd Div.
3. Attack by 16 Aust Inf Bde will be in three phases:-
 - (a) Phase 1: 2/1 Bn is breaching wire between inel post 45 - inel post 47 and capturing in successive steps posts 45 47 and 49: 44 and 46: Med Bty and Trig 180 (51273967); thence exploiting to objectives at Bty posn. at 51393956, RIDGE about 51333964; Trig 180, posts 51 and 53; Exploitation N.W. is being assisted by one tp "I" tanks and Arty.
 - (b) Phase 2: 2/2 Bn is passing through breach in wire and turning S.E. with ultimate objective the line of main CAPUZZO - BARDIA Rd in 515391 and 515392 and task of capturing en route centres of resistance on perimeter defences and bty posns. Left of 2/2 bn will rest on inel ROAD running S.E. from POINT 188 (51273957) to RD JUNC ~~XXXXX~~ 51583924. Attack by 2/2 Bn. is being supported by three tps "I" tanks and arty.
 - (c) Phase 3: 2/3 Bn is following 2/2 Bn through breach in wire turning slightly SOUTH of EAST and proceeding past right flank of 2/1 Bn to objective.
4. 2/1 Fd Coy is constructing six crossings over Tank ditch, two NORTH of post 47 and four between POST 47 and POST 45. It is expected that these will be fit for MT by 0745 hrs DL.
5. Sqn 6 Aust Cav will follow 2/3 Bn and take up posn linking 2/2 Bn and 2/3 Bn;
6. 2/7 Bn is in res to 16 Aust Inf Bde.
7. 17 Aust Inf Bde is making raid on S.E. position BARDIA PERIMETER to coincide with attack by 16 Aust Inf Bde.
8. Our aircraft will be flying over BARDIA from 0230 hrs DL and Navy - Air Force is bombarding area NORTH BARDIA defences on DL from a line one km NORTH of BARDIA - TOBRUK Rd.
9. (a) One Fl N.F. (M.G. Bn.) is in support 2/3 Bn from 1500 hrs 1 Jan.
(b) One pl 16 A Tk Coy is in support of 2/3 Bn;
9. G.O.C. 6 Aust Div will probably come fwd in a cruiser tank during operation. All ranks will be warned of this.

INTENTION.

10. 2/3 Bn. will capture RIDGE running EAST-WEST in 516394, 515394 and 514394 from inel 51633948 to inel WADI 51453953 and consolidate facing NORTH (see trace A).

11. Bn less D Coy and tpt will proceed to assembly area in accordance with Operation Instn No 1 already issued and will form up at assembly area in accordance with Trace B.
12. D Coy will provide three protective dets, each one pl for:-
 - (a) Right of S.L.
 - (b) Fwd of S.L.
 - (c) WADI in 510396.D Coy ~~will~~ move to position and subsequently move to rejoin Bn will be in accordance with Operation Instn No 2 and Trace C issued separately.
13. Move to S.L. and Gap in wire.
 - (a) Timings. Depart Assembly area 0700 hrs.
Pass S.L. 0734 "
Cross A Tk ditch 0749 "
Reach Post 44 0757 "
 - (b) Bearing of Adv 77°
 - (c) Rate of Adv - 150 yds in 2 mins.
 - (d) Each leading coy will post three scouts to move 300x ahead to locate and signal positions of gaps in wire on coy front. These scouts will rejoin coys on coys reaching wire.
 - (e) C Coy and H.Q. Coy will use gaps in wire used by right fwd coy.
 - (f) Left fwd coy will pass to left of Post 44, remainder of Bn to right of this post.
14. Move from Post 44 to Objective.
 - (a) Same Bn formation will be maintained.
 - (b) Bearing of adv 100°.
 - (c) Rate of adv - 100x per minute.
 - (d) Objectives.
 - A Coy - RIDGE at 51493952 from excl WADI and RE-ENTRANT 51533952 to incl WADI 51453952.
 - B Coy - RIDGE at 51553948 on approx 400x front to; incl WADI and RE-ENTRANT on left at 51533952.
 - C Coy - EST end of ridge about 51613948 and to overlook CROSS ROADS at 51663948.
15. Reserve. D Coy after assembling on completion of protective duties to follow in rear of Bn to position at 51483945. D Coy should cross S.L. 200x in rear of H.Q. Coy. On passing enemy wire D Coy will detach one pl to report to POST 45 and take over guarding of prisoners captured by 2/1 and 2/2 Bns. Duty of this pl to escort prisoners to P.O.W. Cage at centre of S.L. after 0800 hrs D1.
16. Carriers. O.C. H.Q. Coy will detail two carriers (each with crew of two only) to proceed with marching personnel of Bn to report to Bn. H.Q. portion of concentration area at 1730 hrs D-1. Carrier pl less dets will move with essential tpt referred to in Adm Inst No 1.
17. Mortar Pl. Marching personnel move with Bn. Mortar trucks move with essential tpt and report to O.C. H.Q. Coy on arrival at objective.
18. Pioneers. O.C. H.Q. Coy will detail 6 personnel to move with Bn H.Q. - Pioneer pl less this det as in Adm Inst No 1.

19. A.A. Pl. As in Adm Inst No 1.
20. M.Gs. (a) Pl N.F. will move with essential tpt and report to Bn. H.Q. at objective as soon as pass over tank ditch can be arranged. Bn 2 i/e will arrange this.
(b) M.G. tasks allotted on arrival of pl at objective.
21. A Tk Guns. As for M.Gs.
- 22; Relief of 2/3 Bn in present position; concentration of 2/3 Bn and subsequent move to assembly area - see Op Inst No 1.
23. 2/3 Bn will be responsible for protection of assembly area from time of arrival therein.
24. Direction. The following magnetic compass bearings are given:-
 - (a) 26 degrees - rd running through present location 2/1 Bn to KINGS CROSS (KING STREET)
 - (b) 29 degrees - rd joining KINGS CROSS to assembly area (GEORGE STREET)
 - (c) 91 degrees - rd running from BARDIA to KINGSCROSS.
 - (d) 77 degrees - assembly area to centre of S.L.
 - (e) 167 degrees - bearing of S.L. from left to right.

ADMINISTRATION.

25. (a) Dress and Equipment;)
(b) Blankets.)
(c) Tools)
(d) Ann.)
(e) Respirators.) See Adm Inst No 1.
(f) Rations.)
(g) Rum)
(h) Wire Cutters.)
26. A and B Ech Tpt - see Op Inst No 1.
27. Reserve Ann - Q.M. will wrange on 2 Jan to complete all res ann to war establishment.
28. Prisoners of War.
 - (a) Prisoners taken by 2/3 Bn will be passed to guard detailed under Lieut J.L. Perry, who will be responsible for their escort to POST 45.
 - (b) Div P.O.W. cage located at centre of S.L. from 0800 hrs onwards.
29. Straggler's post located in GEORGET. about 1000 yards S.W. of assembly area.
30. Medical.
 - (a) M.D.S. vicinity of KINGS CROSS.
 - (b) R.A.F.- Advance R.A.F. will accompany marching personnel of Bn - final location WADI vicinity Bn. H;Q.
 - (c) Walking wounded will re-trace steps taken in fwd movement and look for ambulances enroute.
31. Ann Point - Southern end of KING ST.
- 32; T.C.P. (a) Special enquiry post will be opened at POST 45 on capture.
 - (b) O.C. H.Q. Coy immediately on capture of objectives will detail two guides to report to this post for purpose of guiding up tpt on arrival at that post.
 - (c) M.T.O. will be responsible for bringing fwd essential tpt and will pick up guides at POST 45.

(d) Bn 2 i/e will be in control of essential tpt. and responsible for movement fwd of this tpt.

INTERCOMMUNICATION.

33. Adv Bde H.Q. opens assembly area 0500 hrs D1 and moves fwd in rear of 2/2 Bn. to report centre at POST 45. After capture of objective by 2/2 and 2/3 Bns., Bde H.Q. located at POST 40.
34. Bn H.Q. in WADI about 51523946.
35. Password, night D-1/D1 AUSTRALIA.
36. Sigs will establish V/T to all coys. on capture of objectives and L/T as soon thereafter as possible.
37. Capitulation. In event of general capitulation of garrison of BARDIA the word STOP will be signalled. On receipt of this all firing will cease.

(Sgd) F.G. HASETT. Capt.
Adjt. 2/3 Bn.

Issued by Runner at 0700 hrs.
Signed at 2345 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	1.	Bn H.Q.
	2.	H.Q. Coy;
	3.	A Coy;
	4.	B Coy.
	5.	C Coy.
	6.	D Coy.
	7.	16 Aust A/T Coy.
	8.	Pl N.F. M.G. Bn.
	9.	51 Fd Bty.
	10.	16 Aust Inf Bde.
	11.	C.O.
	12-19.	File;
	20-21.	War Diary.

W. D. D. 1207

Jan. 141.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Survey of records of 1939-45
War commenced in 1951

This record came from

Provisional No. No. of copy

Ref. Maps : BARDIA North and South, 1/50,000.

(1) DRESS AND EQUIPMENT.

- (a) Dress.
- (i) Battle Order (Respirator at Alert)
 - (ii) Goggles to be worn with equipment g/cont.
 - (iii) Haversack on back, water bottle (filled) and mess tins in haversack.
 - (iv) G/Sheet rolled and strapped to haversack. *No. of sheet 100*

- (b) Equipment.
- (i) Each man will carry 150 rounds .303 *100 rounds* and at least one H.L. Grenade.
 - (ii) All Brens, .50-Tk. Rifles and two-inch Mortars will be taken on the Coy. truck to the concentration area. *Pl. less two dets. allotted for protection of "B" Ech. will place their Brens on the M.T.O's. truck. From the concentration area forward, weapons will be manhandled with the exception of Bren tripods, and the two-inch mortars and ammunition, which will remain on coy trucks. These will come forward later with the essential transport. In the case of the Pl., one det. will remain with the essential tpt. travelling with the M.T.O. The remaining det. will leave tripod on the M.T.O's. truck and will move forward with the Bn.*
 - (iii) All Bren Mags. will be loaded with 20 rds. .303 *between 1200 hrs. and 1600 hrs. on D-1. Extra ammunition normally carried in mags. when loaded to full capacity will be carried loose in mag. pouches.*
 - (iv) All offrs. will carry 2 rounds .455 *These not in possession of this quantity will obtain extra from the R.S.M. prior to 1200 hrs. D-1.*
 - (v) *If available, sandbags will be carried by personnel on the scale of four per man.*
 - (vi) *All tools will be taken in coy. truck to the concentration area. From this area forward tools on the scale of two picks and two shovels per sec. will be manhandled.*
 - (x) *In coy trucks. Remaining tools will go forward later.*
 - (gii) *Packs will be loaded onto coy. tpt. classed as non-essential by 1000 hrs. on D-1 and will be returned later to "B" Ech. with that tpt.*

Now Diagram

7) 1000 1500

Haversack
No.

(2) TRANSPORT.

(a) The following transport will accompany the Bn. to the concentration area:-

✓ (i) One truck per coy.	5
(ii) M.T.O's. P.U.	1
(iii) Sig. Truck	1
(iv) Wireless truck	1
(v) Mortar Trucks	2
(vi) Reserve <i> </i>	2
(vii) R...PR	1
(viii) Ed. Amb.	1
(ix) Carriers	5
(x) M.G. Pl.	5
(xi) .50-Tk. Pl.	4
Total	<u>28</u>

75

1100
 (b) Remaining tpt. will report to present Bn. H.Q. location at 1430 hrs. on D-1. Immediately it is assembled it will move under the M.T.O. to the present "B" Ech. location. M.T.O. will be responsible for the reception and marshalling of their tpt. Q.M. will be responsible for moving such tpt. to the new "B" Ech. area.

(3) RATIONS.

(a) Rations for D-1 will be normal with an additional hot meal being issued for consumption during early hours of D1. Q.M. will deliver this meal to present Bn. H.Q. area in two 30-cwt. trucks by 1600 hrs. D-1. Q.M. will instruct the drivers of these trucks of the new location of "B" Ech. and their route back to it from the Bn. concentration area. M.T.O. will arrange for the hot meal to accompany Bn. essential tpt. to the Bn. Concentration area and for its issue to coys. prior to 1830 hrs. on D-1. Meal will be consumed at Reveille on D1 and hot boxes and dixies will be stacked at each Coy. H.Q. immediately after the consumption of the meal.

(b) Iron Ration will be issued to Coys. by the Q.M. as soon as it is available. Coy. Comds. will not issue this ration to personnel until 1400 hrs. on D-1. Attention is drawn to the necessity for instructing all personnel in the conserving of this ration.

(4) BLANKETS.

Blankets on the issue scale of four per man will be carried by personnel to the Bn. Concentration area. At Reveille on D1 blankets will be rolled in sec. bundles and stacked in Pl. dumps. These will be collected at first light together with empty dixies and hot boxes mention in para. 3(c) by the ~~26xxx~~ M.T.O. drivers of the ration trucks and will be returned to the new "B" Ech. area.

Q.M. will arrange delivery of blankets to correct coys. when tpt. classed as non-essential comes fwd.

(5) PRISONERS.

(a) The following personnel will act as guard to prisoners taken:-

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| O.C. Guard | - | Lieut. J. L. Perry. |
| Troops | - | (i) Pioneer Pl. less det. |
| | | (ii) Spare Carrier Personnel. |
| | | (iii) Bn. H.Q. and H.Q. Coy. Officers' batmen. |

O.C. H.Q. Coy. will prepare a nominal roll of guard personnel and submit it to Adjutant by 1000 hrs. D-1.

(b) Excess Bren Guns and mags. in possession of Carrier Pl. will be handed over to Lieut. Perry by 1000 hrs. D-1.

1539
 DA 9a PK
 69
 Note for
 1 mile

[Handwritten signature]

72A

(c) H.Q. Coy. truck will be available to Licut. Perry after objective has been captured. One Bren Gun. det. will be mounted on this truck and will be used to keep watch on prisoners beyond rushing distance.

(d) Further instructions re the collection of prisoners will be issued when the information is available.

(e) Det. of Pioneer Pl. mentioned in para. (a)(i) above will consist of six men detailed to remain with H.Q. Coy. (These men will carry three picks and three shovels - tasks to be allotted by O.C. H.Q. Coy).

(6) GROUNDSTRIPS.

D Coy. Coy. Comds. will ensure that their coy. is in possession of two white ground strips each 8' x 20". These must be placed out in the form of a cross (+) in front of the forward pls. immediately the objective is captured, or when coy. is held up. Failure to do this may result in our being bombed by our own aircraft.

(7) BN. ORDERLIES.

N. Personal orderlies for the C.O. on the scale of two per coy. will report with blankets, ammunition and rations to Bn. H.Q. at its present location by 1600 hrs. D-1. Packs etc. will previously have been placed on non-essential coy. transport. The men selected for this task must be the best available, as their job will require ability to deliver a verbal message clearly and accurately under any circumstance.

(8) SIGNALS.

(a) An attempt to exchange sig. wire will be made with the relieving Bn. In default of this, Sgt. Randall will commence reeling in Signal wire at 1300 hrs. D-1.

(b) Sig. terminals with coys. will retain V.F. equipment. Telephones will be collected when Sig. Wire is reeled in or if exchange of wire is made at 1530 hrs, and will be packed on the Sig. truck.

(9) BREN GUNS, .50TK. RIFLES.

Coy. Comds will instruct all personnel that in the event of a man bearing a Bren gun or .50Tk. rifle being wounded or killed, another member of the sec. will take over the Bren Gun or .50Tk. rifle. ALL Bren Guns and .50Tk. Rifles must reach the objective.

(10) S..... RESERVE.

S..... will arrange with the R.S.M. for all reserve ammunition to be carried on the two S..... reserve trucks accompanying the essential tpt. S..... will render to Bn. H.Q. by 0900 hrs. D-1 a statement of the ammunition carried on each truck.

(b) Details re S.P. will be issued when available. (Sgt. Burkhill will assist the R.S.M. in the supply of ammunition, and will ride in the second amh. truck.)

(11) CASUALTIES.

Coy. Comds will instruct all ranks that ammunition belonging to casualties is to be removed prior to their evacuation to the R.a.P.

(12) SKETCH MAPS.

"I" Offr. will be prepared to produce during morning of D-1, sixty sketch maps showing:-

- (a) Present sub-unit locations;
- (b) Concentration area, Assembly area, Start Line, Objectives and times of arrival at these areas mentioned.
- (c) Routes to areas in (b) above;
- (d) Prominent features which will assist in the recognition of (a) and (b) above.

These sketches will be issued down to sec. leaders at a 1 to hour on the afternoon of D-1. Coy. Comds will ensure that all sub-unit comds. are thoroughly conversant with the Bn. plan of attack.

(13) RUMOR ISSUES.

7 J.M. will forward to Bn. H.Q. on the afternoon of D-1 a rumor issue for all ranks. This will be issued to troops between 1800 and 2000 hrs. D-1 in concentration area.

(14) WIRE CUTTERS AND GLOVES.

ALL wire cutters in possession of coys. will be fastened to the bearer by means of an improvised lanyard. Coy. Comds will ensure that this instruction is strictly adhered to, as the supply of wire cutters is limited and their loss may seriously affect the success of this operation. (Licut. Perry will issue gloves to coys. on the scale of two prs. per rifle sec. by 1000 hrs. on D-1.) *One per sec.*

(15) MARKING OF H.Q.s.

Licut. Perry will issue to Coys. by 1000 hrs. on D-1, coy. signboards marked "A57" etc. These boards will be displayed at all times for tank recognition, both whilst on the move and when occupying a position.

R.A.M.S. forward.
(16) ACK.

F. G. Hassett
Capt.
Adjt. 2/3 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION.

- Copy no. 1 - Bn. H.Q.
- Copy No. 2 - H.Q. Coy.
- Copy no. 3 - " Coy.
- Copy No. 4 - B Coy.
- Copy no. 5 - C Coy.
- Copy no. 6 - D Coy.
- Copy no. 7 - 16 Aust. Lk. Coy.
- Copy no. 8 - Pl. H.G. Coy. (N.F. H.G. Bn).
- Copy No. 9 - 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.
- Copy no. 10 - C.O.
- Copies nos. 11-19 - File.
- Copies 20-21 - War Diary.

R.A.M.S.

R.A.M.S. forward.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Lieutenant-Colonel V.T. England,

Commanding 2/3rd. Battalion.

NOT TO BE
PUBLISHED.

No. 1

PART I.

16 Jan. 41.

1. BOUNDS.

"Tommy's Bar", 26 Sharia Adly Pasha, CAIRO, is placed "out of bounds" to all officers.

2. ORDNANCE VOUCHERS.

Difficulty is being experienced in clearing ordnance vouchers for stores issued.

Units will ensure that the vouchers are receipted without delay and returned through D.A.D.O.S. 6 Aust. Div.

The original is for retention by the unit, and three ~~xxx~~ copies must be returned for the sub-depots.

3. CAPTURED BINOCULARS AND PISTOLS.

Individuals will NOT retain captured binoculars and pistols. These will be returned to Bn. H.Q. by 0900 hrs. on 17 Jan. 41.

4. 190 CABLE ELECTRIC - INDENTS.

All indents for Cable Electric D.3., D.2 and 'Quad' within the first place be submitted by units to the Chief Signal Officer of their formation, who will satisfy himself as to the necessity of the demand before countersigning the Indent and forwarding it to D.A.D.O.S. of the formation.

5. MONIES.

The amount of £E.22,100 will be paid into 2/3 Bn. Regimental Fund. This amount is the unit's proportion of monies derived from the Swill Contract at HELWAN.

6. STERLING BANK NOTES.

All ranks are instructed that sterling bank notes must NOT be accepted from local inhabitants. Any attempt to unload notes in appreciable quantities will be reported to Bn. H.Q. immediately.

7. PROMULGATION.

Coy. Comds. will ensure that the above orders are promulgated to all troops at the earliest opportunity.

DISTRIBUTION:

Bn. H.Q. - 1 copy.
H.Q. Coy. - 1 copy.
A Coy. - 1 copy.
B Coy. - 1 copy.
C Coy. - 1 copy.
D Coy. - 1 copy.

HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde -
2 cop/ies.
C.O. - 1 copy.
Q.M. - 1 copy.
War Diary - 2 copies.
File - 2 copies.

W. McEachern
for Capt.
Adj. 2/3 Bn.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Lieutenant-Colonel V.T. England,
Commanding 2/3rd. Battalion.

NOT TO BE
PUBLISHED.

No. 2

PART I

25 Jan., 41.

1. TRUCKS, 15 CWT., 4-WHEELED, FORD, CANADIAN TYPE.

(a) The ground clearance of the Truck, 15 cwt., 4-wheeled, Ford, Canadian type, is slightly less than that of the Truck, 15 cwt., 4-wheeled, Morris, to which most units have been accustomed.

(b) All drivers will be warned to be careful when driving this type of vehicle over rocky or uneven ground, otherwise back axle casings may be damaged.

2. SIGNING INDENTS FOR SUPPLIES.

Indents demanding supplies from the A.A.S.C. will be signed by an Officer. On the delivery of the supplies to units the loading lists may be signed by other ranks, but the receipt on the indent will be signed by an Officer.

3. ARMS ETC.

Pistols and Amn. will be carried by Officers and Warrant Officers Class I when at the Libyan front only.

4. BOUNDS.

B.R.O. No. 1, para. 1, of 10 Jan. 41 is cancelled, and the following substituted:- "'Tommy's Bar', 25 Sharia Adly Pasha, CAIRO, is placed out of bounds to Other Ranks."

5. LOOTING.

(i) Cases are prevalent of the removal and appropriation by Officers and Other Ranks of:-

- (a) Spare parts, accessories, etc, from captured or broken down enemy vehicles;
- (b) Weapons, ammunition, equipment, effects, etc. left by or captured from the Enemy.

(ii) This practice will cease forthwith and will in future be regarded as "Looting", all cases of which will be severely dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

6. LEADED PETROL - PRECAUTIONS.

(a) Almost all the petrol now being supplied ex Military 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 for any household appliances.

(b) The practice of sucking up a rubber tube, in order to syphon it out of the tanks of Motor vehicles will be discontinued.

War Diary

(c) If for any reason 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.

7. GUN MACHINE GUN - RODS CLEANING.

(a) Damage to the Extractor way of the Gun Machine Brox .503" frequently occurs when the guns are cleaned with Rods Cleaning M.G. Mk.II "B".

(b) This damage may be avoided if a piece of bicycle pedal rubber, cut to approximately one inch in length, is drawn on to the handle end of the cleaning rod.

(c) This service will be carried out by units, discarded unserviceable bicycle pedal rubbers being used. If u/s bicycle pedal rubbers are not available, indents will be submitted by units to D.A.D.O.S.

8. REPLACEMENT OF KIT LOST ON SERVICE.

(a) Equipment, clothing and necessaries lost on active service will be replaced by Ordnance issues, and monetary compensation in respect of such losses will not be admissible.

(b) Replacement of articles of kit which are not an Ordnance issue will be made by special purchases by Ordnance Department as a charge against Australian Funds. The articles replaced by special purchase by Ordnance Department will not exceed in cost the total amount of £A15, and will be restricted to those articles which may be considered a fair and reasonable requirement of active service.

(c) Replacement by special purchase will only be made when -

- (i) There is conclusive evidence of the loss;
- (ii) The loss was due to the exigencies of the service and is not attributable to negligence on the part of the officer concerned.

(d) All claims for special purchase will be submitted on A.I.F. Form Q.2, copies of which may be obtained by units direct from Stationary Depot, Printing and Stationary Services.

9. AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE CANTEREN SERVICE - CANTEREN ORDERS.

On presentation of an order, the canteen attendant must satisfy himself that the Order is genuine and that it has not been cut, defaced, mutilated, that no erasure or alteration has been made on the Order, and that:

- (a) it bears an impression of the date stamp of the Issuing Post Office;
- (b) the name and regimental number of the presenter are shown in the allotted spaces on the Order;
- (c) The Order is signed by the person named in the Order in the prescribed place;
- (d) the Order has been stamped on the back by the Unit Orderly Office and signed by an officer, signifying that the Order has been received by the rightful owner named in the Order.

Orders are no longer issued in the denomination of 10/- and 20/- and can now be obtained only for 5/-, 3/- and 2/-.

2.

10. SICK PARADES.

Until further notice, sick parades will be held at the following times:-

0900 hrs.
1545 hrs.

11. ITALIAN TELEPHONE CABLE.

All ranks are warned that they MUST not interfere with Italian telephone cable lying on the ground, as some of this forms part of our signal communication system.

12. BLACKOUT.

Under no circumstances will lights be shown after 1745 hrs. or before 0700 hrs. Provided doors and windows are efficiently curtained, lights may be lit inside buildings.

Lt. Col. ...
Lieut.
Actg. Adj. 2/3 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION:

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B Coy. - 1 copy.
C Coy. - 1 copy.
D Coy. - 1 copy.
HQ 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. - 2 copies.
C.O. - 1 copy.
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Q.M. - 1 copy.
R.M.O. - 1 copy.
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File - 2 copies.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Lieutenant-Colonel V.T. England,
Commanding 2/3rd. Battalion.

NOT TO BE
PUBLISHED.

No. 3

PART I.

27th Jan., '41.

1. DISCHARGING OF FIREARMS.

Under no circumstances will personnel discharge firearms of any sort unless duly authorised to do so by an officer or N.C.O. to whom this authority is deputed.

An important buoy was sunk by rifle fire on Saturday. Troops will NOT fire at any object on the harbour or foreshores.

2. POSTAGE RATES.

Commencing forthwith postage rates for mail matter posted in LIBYA by members of the A.I.F. to places within the British Empire will be as follows:-

Air Mail: Letters and packets not exceeding 14 grammes - 9d. (30 mils).
Articles exceeding 14 grammes - 1/6d. (59 mils), for each 14 grammes or part thereof.
Postcards, 5d. (17 mils).

Surface Mail: Under 4 oz - free;

Over 4 oz - postage is calculated on the total weight of the article.

Letters - 1d. per oz.

Printed Matter - 1d. per 8 oz.

Merchandise - (under 1 lb.) 1d. per 4 ozs.

Books, periodicals, newspapers - 1d. per 12 ozs.

Parcels, not exceeding 1 lb. 6d. (20 mils)

2 " 9d. (30 mils)

3 " 1/-d. (39 mils)

5 " 1/3d. (49 mils)

8 " 1/6d. (59 mils)

11 " 1/9d. (69 mils).

Australian postage stamps will be affixed to postal articles. Army seals may be used until supplies are exhausted.

3. PAYBOOKS OF WOUNDED MEN.

When a wounded man is evacuated his paybook will NOT be removed from his possession.

E.S. Walker Lieut.
Actg. Adj. 2/3 Bn.

NOTICES.

1. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY.

The following message to 6 Aust. Div. and attached units has been received from Major-General I.G. Mackay, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., GOC. 6 Aust. Div:-

"Then asked recently my opinion of the troops under my Command the

answer was 'The highest tribute I can pay to 6 Aust Div and attached British troops is to ask of them in the coming attack on TOBRUK the same cheerfulness, teamwork, daring and resolution as they gave at BARDIA.' This demand you have all answered in full measure, TOBRUK is in our hands and I thank each one for the part he played in the capture.

The C-in-C., General Sir Archibald Wavell, and the G.O.C. XIII Corps, Lieut.-General R. O'Connor, both visited Tobruk yesterday and both laid on me the pleasing duty of conveying to you all, their warmest thanks and congratulations upon your fine military achievement."

2. The following message has been received:-

"Please convey to Crookwell boys your Battalion the old Diggers' admiration and congratulations for magnificent work at BARDIA. (Sgd) S. Lund, President Crookwell Returned Soldiers".

DISTRIBUTION:

- Bn. H.Q. - 1 copy.
- H.Q. Coy. - 1 copy.
- A Coy. - 1 copy.
- B Coy. - 1 copy.
- C Coy. - 1 copy.
- DCoy. - 1 copy.
- HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde - 2 copies.
- C.O. - 1 copy
- En. 2 i/c. - 1 copy
- Q.M. - 1 copy
- R.M.O. - 1 copy
- War Diary - 2 copies ✓
- File - 2 copies.

CASUALTIES SUSTAINED AT TOBRUCH

KILLED IN ACTION

NX 4261	Cpl.	Woolley S.F.	NX13297	Pte.	Delaney J.A.
NX 4282	Cpl.	Foster S.J.A.	NX 5392	Pte.	Farrell G.W.P.
NX15140	Pte.	Muller L.W.	NX 7877	Pte.	Hollands R.
NX14247	Pte.	Smith S.H.			

7

WOUNDED IN ACTION

NX 100	Capt.	I. Hutchison	NX 7867	Pte.	Young S.
NX 82	Lieut.	I. C. Fulton	NX 7880	Pte.	Massingham H.
NX12274	Lieut.	A. F. Thompson	NX13269	Pte.	Sullivan R.J.
NX 34887	Lieut.	R. Donegan	NX 5608	Cpl.	Stevens B.P.
NX34890	Lieut.	J. E. MacDonald	NX 5410	L/Cpl.	Dawson R.V.
NX13588	Pte.	Edwards E.V.	NX 4894	L/Cpl.	Power R.H.
NX13919	Pte.	Woollams L.J.	NX15098	Pte.	Parnell L.
NX 9502	Pte.	Cole H.R.	NX13506	Pte.	Rule W.
NX 7920	Pte.	Hollands E.	NX15254	Pte.	Mongable F.
NX 5505	Pte.	Kerdavid B.	NX 4730	A/Cpl.	Fisher T.
NX 4929	Pte.	Brooker L.W.	NX 4510	Cpl.	Moran R.J.
NX15090	Pte.	Cass W.H.	NX14099	Pte.	Sneddon G.P.
NX 4792	Cpl.	Leighton D.R.	NX15138	Pte.	Terrence G.
NX 4313	Pte.	Crawley K.C.	NX 7862	Pte.	Gallagher H.
NX 4561	Sgt.	Owers L.N.	NX13929	Pte.	Henneberry T.F.
NX 5430	Pte.	Mitchell D.K.	NX14259	Pte.	Bromby P.
NX15315	Pte.	Ashley M.	NX 9682	Pte.	Foley J.
NX 4302	L/Sgt.	Simpson G.	NX11061	Pte.	Fahey J.
NX 5026	Pte.	Clark W.J.	NX 4249	L/Cpl.	Martin S.
NX13496	Pte.	Cummins P.J.	NX 4992	Pte.	Murphy W.A.
NX 14252	Pte.	Turnbull W.R.	NX 4904	A/Sgt.	Sayers H.T.
NX 4551	Sgt.	Hillier G.R.	NX 4641	Pte.	Russell K.
NX 4926	Pte.	Dyer H.O.			
NX 4229	Pte.	Lloyd T.			

46

CASUALTIES SUSTAINED AT BARDIA.

KILLED IN ACTION

NX 82	Lieut. E. Alexander	NX 4544	Pte.	Coates H.H.
NX 89	" L. D. Calman	NX 4817	"	Montgomery R.
NX 5376	" A. L. Clark	NX 4866	"	Bowes R.
NX12164	" P. C. Jackson-Taylor	NX 4959	"	Hergenham H.H.
NX 7599	Cpl. Batty A.W.	NX 5590	P "	McCarroll W.J.
NX 4855	L/Cpl. Akister R.	NX 6070	"	Dempsey F.C.
NX 4511	Pte. Tambakis P.	NX 7869	"	Miller G.D.

WOUNDED IN ACTION

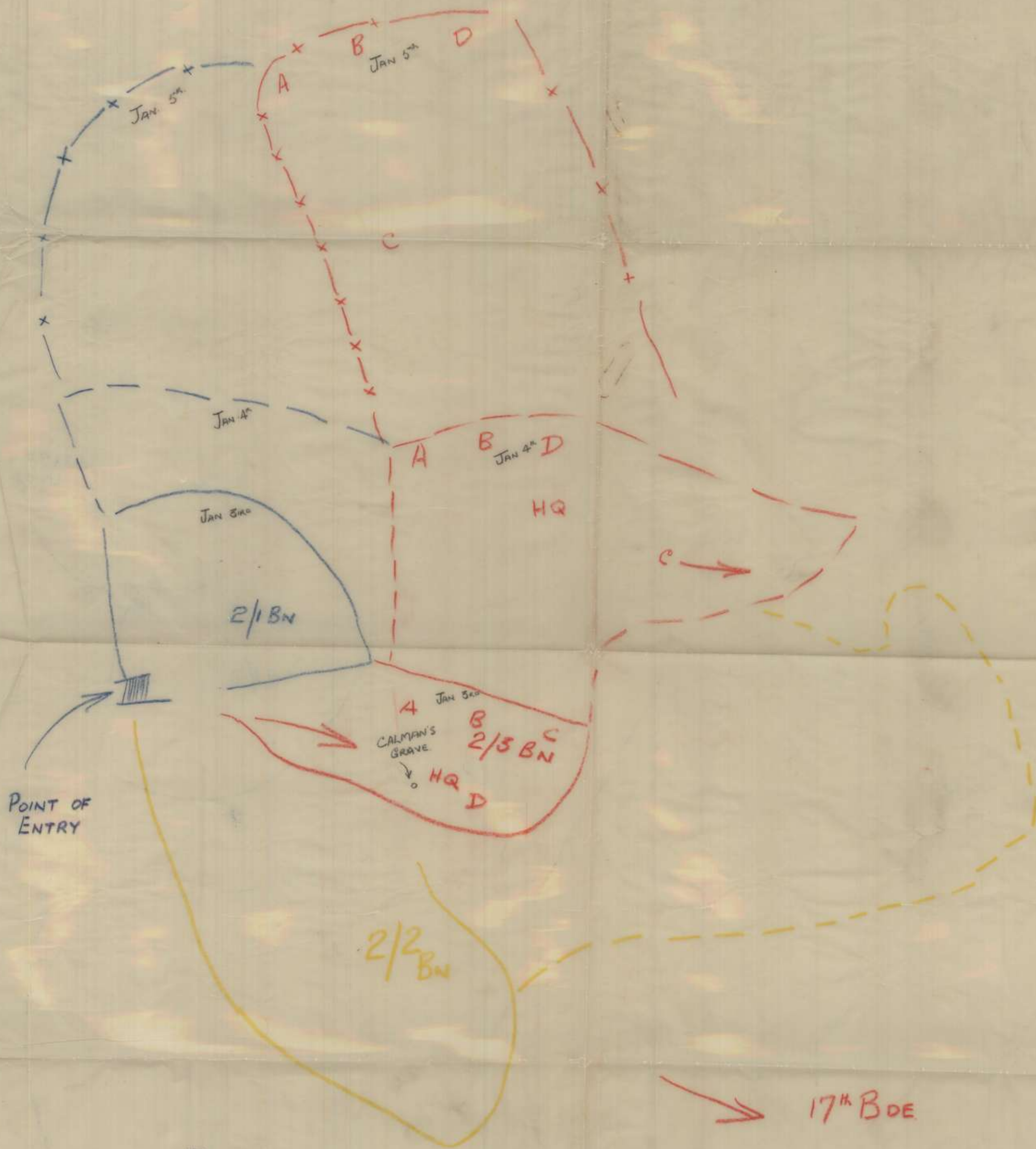
NX 4313	Cpl. McLean H.	NX13532	Pte.	Bentley G.A.
NX 4546	L/Cpl. Carey K.	NX 9943	Pte.	Pegrum D.A.
NX 5430	Pte. Baker L.A.	NX 4243	Pte.	Taylor E.C.
NX 4599	Pte. Gardiner G.	NX 6069	Pte.	Daniels L.J.
NX 4252	Pte. Pearce S.W.A.	NX 5164	Sgt.	Windus J.
NX13366	Pte. Kelly J.F.	NX 5431	Pte.	Cooke G.H.
NX 9569	Pte. Reid R.F.	NX 4256	Pte.	Waller R.J.
NX 9574	Pte. Wilson R.	NX 5471	Cpl.	Heriot E.H.
NX11654	Pte. Dowe R.L.	NX 4560	Pte.	Sherrin F.W.
NX 7957	Pte. Periera H.J.	NX 4746	Pte.	Austen C.R.
NX 4315	Cpl. Gluyas J.S.	NX13501	Pte.	Cook S.G.
NX 7904	Pte. Merlett J.A.	NX 4579	Pte.	Turner J.T.
NX 5568	L/Cpl. Coomber R.H.	NX 8674	Sgt.	Cheeseman N.G.
NX13535	Pte. Armstrong C.	NX 5375	Pte.	Buckley H.S.
NX 5457	Pte. Lyttleton J.	NX 2622	Pgt.	O'Brien L.P.
NX 4722	Pte. Russell H.C.		Pte.	Cullen E.A.
NX 5390	Pte. Bensley B.N.	NX 5061	Sgt.	Sutherland A.
NX 5556	L/Cpl. Adam D.C.	NX 5578	Pte.	Galley E.H.
NX 4850	Cpl. Maguire L.E.	NX 4222	Pte.	Costin H.J.

SPECIAL BARDIA SHEET

To be Superimposed on

EDITION OF 31 DEC 40

1:25'000



	512	
390	+	

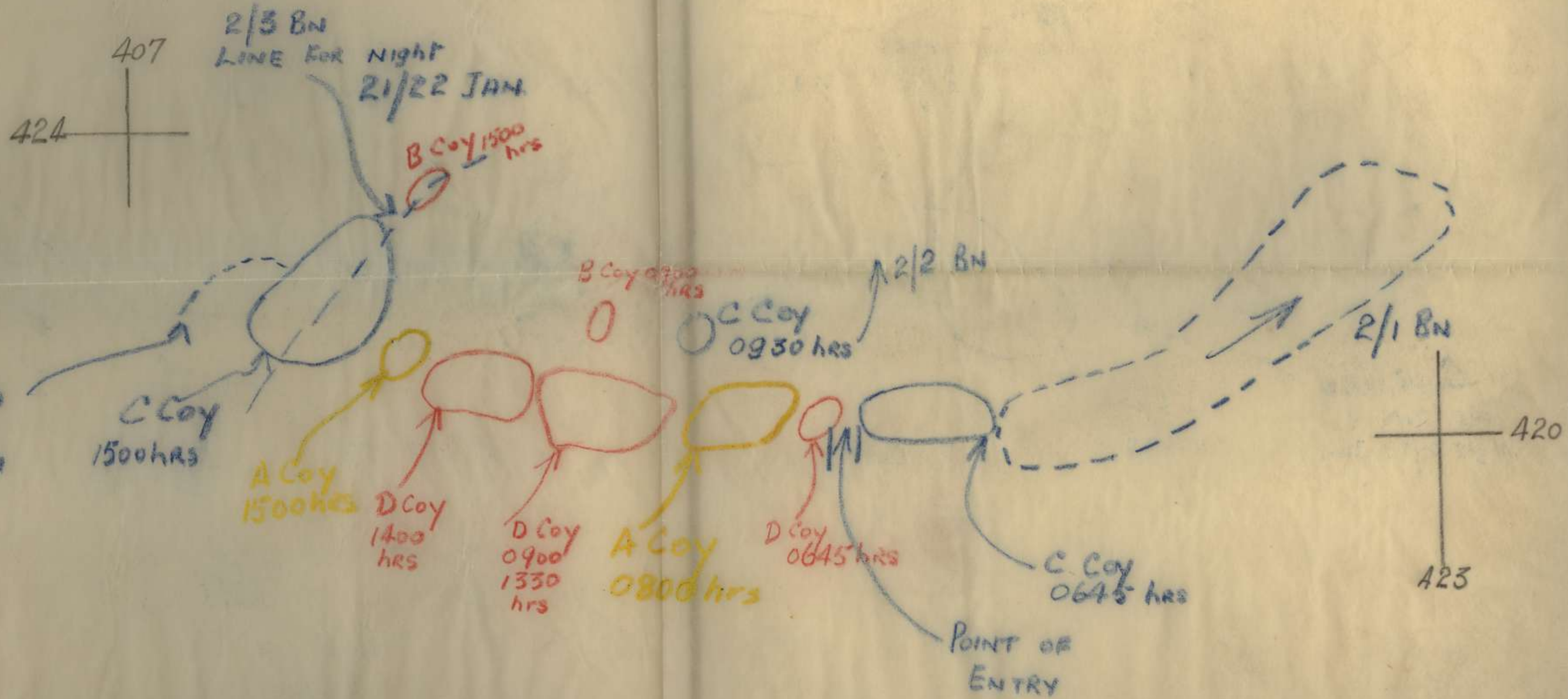
	521	
	+	389

TOBRUCH

EDITION OF 14 JAN 41.

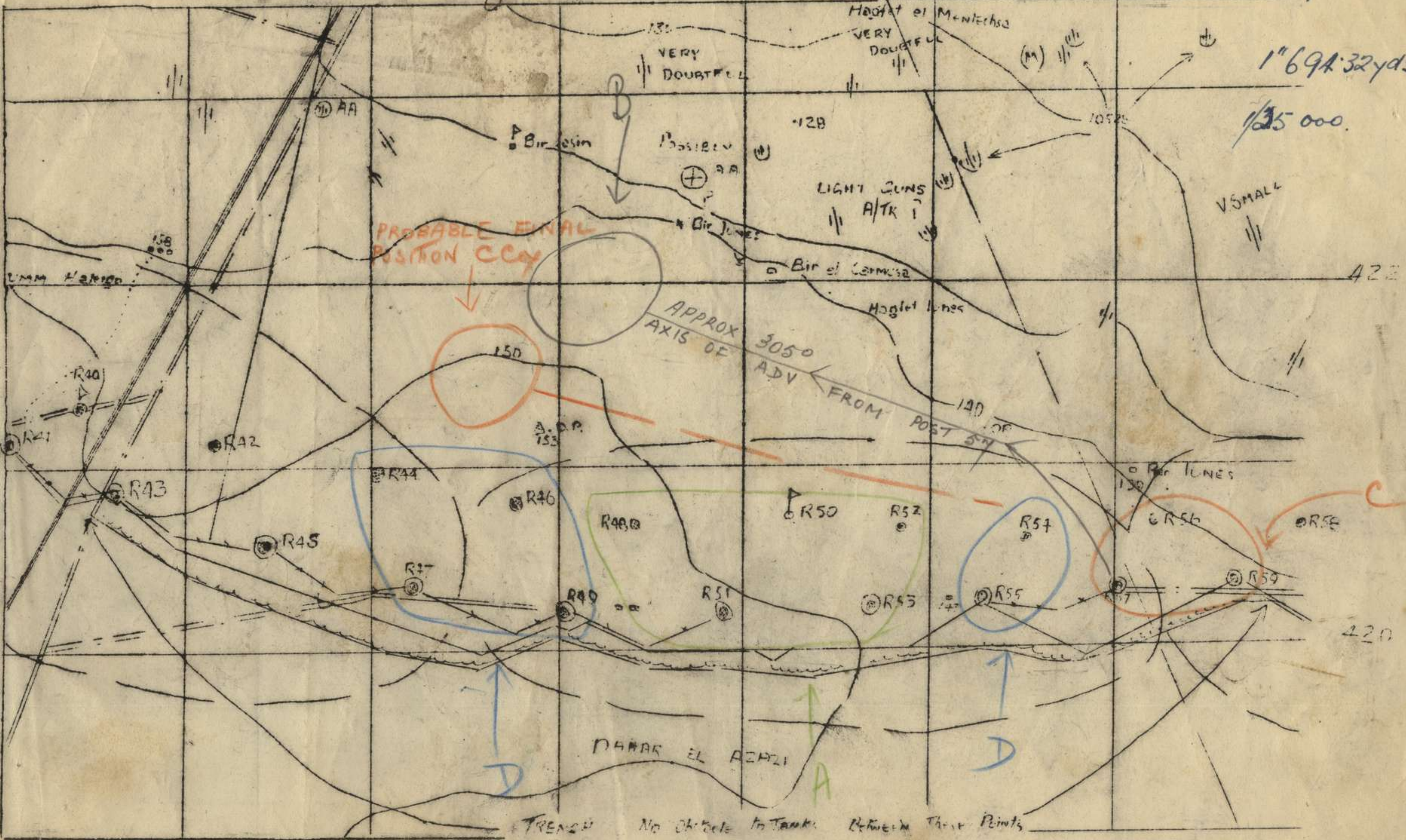
1:50,000

To be Superimposed on



Captured
by patrols
NIGHT 21/22 JAN

A10 A11 A12 A13 A14 A15 A16 A17



Serial No.	DATE	TIME	UNIT	ACTION	ROUTE	DESTINATION	REMARKS
1	21 Jun	2030	B Coy (1)	Withdraws to intermediate position	ROAD	RIDGE ROAD NORTH of HOLEIGAT	(1) FIRE IN P.C. Coy 100 Yds N of B Coy
2	do	do	MORTAR PI	Dismount mortars	-	CORNER of ORCHARD	(2) MANHANDLE TO DESTINATION
3	do	do	M Coy. AT Flight	WITHDRAW	-	SELECTED BY COMD	(3) TO MOVE IN REAR OF 'A' ECHELON
4	do	2045	MORTAR TRUCK (H)	REPORTS TO PICK UP MORTARS	-	CORNER of ORCHARD	(4) THEN MOVES WITH 'A' ECHELON
5	do	2100	Sig Pl.	CLOSES LINE TO FORWARD COYS	ROAD HOLEIGAT-KAUKABA	ROAD	(5) TPT UNDER ARRANGEMENTS / ETC
6	do	-	B ECHELON (S)	WITHDRAWS	ROAD HOLEIGAT-KAUKABA	JULIE'S CAMP	(6) MOVES BACK UNDER KM DIRECT TO CAMP - AFTER RATIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED
7	do	2115	A ECHELON (L)	WITHDRAWS	ROAD HOLEIGAT-KAUKABA	BN R.V. at FLAT GROUND NORTH of KAUKABA	(7) LESS BN OFFICE TRUCK T TRUCK SIG TRUCK + COMDS P.U. BN SAM RESERVE TRUCK ONE A.A. DET plus CARRIERS 4 M BTY AFT REPT MOVING IN REAR
8	do	2130	B Coy	-	-	-	(8) TO BE IN AN INTERMEDIATE POSITION
9	do	Z	RAF (2)	Does present position & moves to join B Coy	ROAD HOLEIGAT-KAUKABA	RIDGE ROAD NORTH of HOLEIGAT	(9) TALA MOVES WITH B COY
10	do	Z	RESERVE PIS FORWARDED COYS (A, C + D)	WITHDRAW	AS SELECTED BY Coy COMDS (S)	Coy R.V.'s	(10) FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS APPLY C Coy TO USE KAUKABA RD H Coy TO MOVE WEST OF " D Coy TO MOVE EAST OF " WITH NORTH OF BURKIN
11	do	Z	BN HQ + HOLEY (9)	WITHDRAW	HOLEIGAT-KAUKABA	BN RV	(11) ORDER OF MARCH BN HQ + RMP MORTAR PI CARRIERS PI PIONEER PI REARMS FROM COYS

MARCH

TABLE

SERIAL NO.	DATE	TIME	UNIT	ACTION	ROUTE	DESTINATION	REMARKS
11	21 Jun	Z+8	FORWARD PIS	COMMENCE TRAINING OUT	—	PI RVS	(10) SELECTED BY Coy COMD
12	do	Z+20	FORWARD COYS	CLEAR OF FDL'S	—	—	
13	do	Z+90	All TPs	CLEAR OF COORDINATING LINE (11)	—	—	
14	22 Jun	Z+170	All Coys (11)	MOVE FROM BN RV	ROAD JUNCTION 115 115 - EDE ROAD	115 115	(11) LINE OF ROAD REMAINING S.E. FROM BEIT TING AND CROSSING KHUMBIEN RIVER 117 113
15	do	—	A Echelon (12)	do	do	do	(12) ORDER OF MARCH: A Coy BN HQ 4 SIG PI MURTAG PI CARRIER PL PIONEER PI C Coy - SAME COMPOSITION AS AHEAD FROM FORWARD AREA D Coy COYS TO MOVE AT 5 MINUTE INTERVALS 1/3 INCLUDES CARRIERS TO MOVE IN 15 MINUTE BOUNDS BEHIND MAIN PERSONNEL DENSITY - 15 V.T.M SPEED - 12 M.P.H WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A BTY - 1/1 FORT M BTY 1/1 REGT
16	do	Z+230	A Coy	PASSES TARI 113	—	—	

MARCH

TABLE

SERIAL NO.	DATE	TIME	UNIT	ACTION	ROUTE	DESTINATION	REMARKS
17	22	21250	B Coy (113)	WITHDRAWN FROM INTERMEDIATE POSITION	do	do	SAME COMPOSITION AS FOR MOVE FROM FORWARD WREN
18	do	21315	do	PASS TRIG 113	do	do	

HEVONVIVLEB

SMD ANSIBAGIWI IMBERIWI FORCE



REPRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES